



Worker visas in doubt as immigration crackdown widens

By MATT SEDENSKY

NEW YORK (AP) — Immigrants with specialized skills are being denied work visas or seeing applications get caught up in lengthy bureaucratic tangles under federal changes that some consider a contradiction to President Donald Trump's promise of a continued pathway to the U.S. for the most talented foreigners. Getting what's known as an H-1B visa has never been a sure thing — the number issued annually is capped at 85,000 and applicants need to enter a lottery to even be consid-


ered. But some immigration attorneys, as well as those who hire such workers, say they've seen unprecedented disruptions in the approval process since Trump took office in 2017.

"You see all these arguments that we want the best and the brightest coming here," said John Goslow, an immigration attorney in Ann Arbor, Michigan. "Yet we're seeing a full-frontal assault on just all aspects of immigration." For American businesses, there is a bottom-line impact.

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In this Monday, Feb. 4, 2019, photo, Leo Wang packs a suitcase at his home in San Jose, Calif. Wang has found himself trapped in an obstacle course regarding H-1B work visas for foreigners. Associated Press



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Rosenstein: Government transparency isn't always appropriate



Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein speaks at a Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) event on the rule of law, Monday, Feb. 25, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

By ERIC TUCKER

WASHINGTON (AP) — The man who long oversaw special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation said Monday that it is not always appropriate for the government to be transparent about its work as he argued that prosecutors should not level public allegations against people they do not charge. Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein's comments at an event come as Mueller's Russia probe winds down and as there is debate about what information should be made public at the end, particularly about individuals who were investigated but not charged.

Rosenstein did not discuss Mueller's work in detail and did not suggest his comments about transparency were specifically about the special counsel's investigation. But he made several remarks that could be interpreted as setting the stage for the Justice Department to not disclose as much about the investigation, and about the actions of President Donald Trump, as Democrats in Congress and many in the public might want.

"There's a knee-jerk reaction to suggest that we should be transparent about what we do in government," Rosenstein said. "But there are a lot of reasons not to be transparent about what we do in government."

He added: "There may be legitimate reasons for making exceptions, but as a general principle, in my view, the Department of Justice is best served when people are confident that ... when we're investigating American citizens in par-

ticular, we're going to do it with appropriate sensitivity to the rights of uncharged people."

Rosenstein was responsible for Mueller's appointment in May 2017 and has overseen much of his day-to-day work since then. He is expected to step down in the middle of next month, and his speech Monday on the rule of law at the Center for Strategic and International Studies is likely one of his final public appearances before his departure.

The decision on what to do with Mueller's findings will ultimately fall to new Attorney General William Barr, who has said he wants to make public as much as he can. He has said he plans to produce his own report after receiving a confidential one from Mueller.

At other points in his speech, and in a question-and-answer session that followed, Rosenstein appeared to allude to the Justice Department's protocol of not disclosing negative information about people it does not have enough evidence to charge or that, for other reasons, it decides against prosecuting. Justice Department legal opinions argue that a sitting president cannot be indicted, suggesting prosecutors would not be able to pursue charges against Trump even if they uncover wrongdoing. That could mean investigators do not make public information they collected on Trump.

"The guidance I always gave my prosecutors and the agents I worked with during my tenure on the front lines of law enforcement were if we aren't prepared to prove our case beyond a reasonable

doubt in court, then we have no business making allegations against American citizens," Rosenstein said.

Rosenstein's comments stand in contrast to congressional Democrats who are aggressively pushing the idea that Mueller's full report, plus the underlying documents, should be made public.

The Democrats are pointing to documents Justice Department officials made public following the investigation into Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server, as well as information Republicans demanded last year during inquiries into the early stages of the FBI's Russia investigation.

The documents given to Congress included sensitive, sometimes classified, information that had traditionally been kept under wraps after closed investigations or during ongoing investigations.

The chairman of the House intelligence committee, Adam Schiff, tweeted Monday that "this double standard won't cut it."

"For two years, I sounded the alarm about DOJ's deviation from just that principle as it turned over hundreds of thousands of pages in closed or ongoing investigations," he said. "I warned that DOJ would need to live by this precedent. And it will." □

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Ex-campaign worker for Trump sues over unwanted kiss claim

By CURT ANDERSON
AP Legal Affairs Writer

MIAMI (AP) — A former worker on President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign claims in a lawsuit filed Monday that he abruptly grabbed her by the hand and planted an unwanted kiss on her face during a Florida meeting with staff and volunteers.

Alva Johnson, who lives in the Huntsville, Alabama area, contends in the federal lawsuit that Trump made the nonconsensual advance in August 2016 in Tampa, Florida. She says he "grasped her hand and did not let go" and kissed her on the corner of her mouth as she turned slightly away. "The forced and unwanted kiss was deeply offensive to Ms. Johnson," the lawsuit says, adding that she suffered "emotional distress, psychological trauma, humiliation, embarrassment, loss of dignity, invasion of privacy and other damages."

The lawsuit, also reported earlier Monday by The Washington Post and The New Yorker, seeks unspecified money damages and an order preventing the president from "grabbing, kissing or otherwise assaulting or harassing women without prior express consent."

White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders called Johnson's allegations fabricated and said other people who were there say it did not take place.

"This accusation is absurd on its face. This never happened and is directly contradicted by multiple highly credible eye witness accounts," Sanders said.

At the time, Johnson's main

job with the Trump campaign was to manage a fleet of recreational vehicles that served as traveling offices throughout Florida. According to the lawsuit, Trump visited one of these RVs in Tampa before a rally there when the unwanted kiss took place.

"He told her he knew she had been on the road for a long time and that she had been doing a great job. He also told Ms. Johnson that he would not forget about her, and that he was going to take care of her," Johnson claims in the lawsuit.

Among those who allegedly witnessed the incident was Pam Bondi, at the time Florida's attorney general and a Trump supporter. The lawsuit contends that Bondi "glanced at Ms. Johnson and smiled" after the alleged unwanted kiss.

Bondi did not immediately respond Monday to an email seeking comment.

Johnson's lawsuit also recounts at least a dozen similar allegations made by women against Trump and notes that she realized she was not alone after the infamous "Access Hollywood" tape emerged in October 2016 in which Trump brags about groping and kissing women without asking permission. Trump has denied any wrongdoing.

A Florida lawyer who she contacted not long after the incident, Adam Horowitz, said Monday that "she was definitely in distress and not just about her job." She also told Horowitz she was seeing a therapist.

Horowitz said what they didn't know at the time was that October 2016 was also the month Stormy Daniels and Karen McDougal were

being paid off through then-Trump lawyer Michael Cohen, according to Cohen's sworn statements. Horowitz ultimately did not take the Johnson case.

Johnson, who is African-American, also claims in the lawsuit that she was paid less than her Trump campaign counterparts because of her race and gender.

"The campaign knew that it was underpaying Ms. Johnson relative to her white counterparts," the lawsuit claims. Trump campaign spokeswoman Kayleigh McEnany denied that claim.

"The Trump campaign has never discriminated based



In an Aug. 24, 2016 photo, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump meets supporters organizing voter registration and support for his campaign just before a rally at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa, Fla.

on race, ethnicity, gender, or any other basis. Any allegation suggesting otherwise is off base and unfounded." □

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WORKER VISAS

Continued from Front

Link Wilson, an architect who co-founded a firm in Bloomington, Minnesota, said finding enough qualified workers within the U.S. has been a problem for years. That's due to a shortage of architects, but also because his firm needs people with experience developing senior housing. He said employers who turn to international applicants do so as a last resort, putting up with legal fees and ever-expanding visa approval times because they have no other choice.

"We're just at the point where there's no one else to hire," said Wilson, who hired an architect under an H-1B visa last year after enduring a long wait. He estimates his firm turned away about \$1 million in projects in 2018 because it didn't have enough staff to handle them.

Three months after taking office, Trump issued his "Buy American and Hire American" executive order, directing Cabinet officials to suggest reforms to ensure that H-1B visas are awarded to the "most-skilled or highest-paid" applicants to help promote the hiring of Americans for jobs that might otherwise go to immigrants.

Subsequent memos have allowed for greater discretion in denying applications without first requesting additional information from an applicant, tossed the deference given to people seeking to renew their H-1Bs, and raised concern that the government would revoke work permits for the spouses of H-1B holders. One order restricted companies' ability to use H-1B workers off-site at a customer's place of business, while another temporarily rescinded the option of paying for faster application processing.



In this April 18, 2017 file photo, President Donald Trump holds up the "Buy American, Hire American" executive order which he signed during a visit to the headquarters of tool manufacturer Snap-on Inc. in Kenosha, Wis.

Attorneys who handle these applications say one of the biggest shifts is an increase in "requests for evidence," or RFEs, from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. An RFE can delay a visa for months or longer as applicants and employers are forced to submit additional documentation over things such as the applicability of a college degree to a prospective job or whether the wage being offered is appropriate. If the responses are unsatisfactory, a visa may be denied.

"They're just blocking the avenues so that employers will get frustrated and they won't employ foreign nationals," said Dakshini Sen, an immigration lawyer in Houston whose caseload is mostly H-1B applications. "We have to write and write and write and explain and explain and explain each and every point."

USCIS data released on Friday shows an increase in the number of completed H-1B applications receiving an RFE, from about 21 percent in the 2016 fiscal year to 38 percent last fiscal

year. The number continued to rise in the first quarter of this fiscal year, to 60 percent.

A growing number of applications with such requests were ultimately denied, while the approval rate among all applicants has fallen. Approvals also dipped in two other visa programs for foreign workers, including one for individuals with extraordinary abilities in areas such as science, sports and the arts. Jessica Collins, a spokeswoman for USCIS, linked the changes to the president's executive order, saying the goal was to reduce "frivolous" petitions and that "it is incumbent upon the petitioner, not the government" to prove eligibility. Some employers note traditional three-year renewable terms of H-1Bs have also been changing; one lawsuit by an organization representing information technology companies claims some visas were valid for only a few days or had expired before they were even received.

Meantime, a vague entry

published in the Federal Register last fall advised that the Department of Homeland Security would propose additional revisions to focus on attracting "the best and the brightest" and to "ensure employers pay appropriate wages" to H-1B visa holders, which has raised alarms that the administration will move to narrow the definition of who qualifies.

Caught in the crosshairs of all this are workers like Leo Wang.

Wang, 32, spent six years after college in his native China learning all he could about data and analytics. He got into the University of Southern California, interned at a major venture capital firm and wasted no time after finishing his master's before starting on another degree. He couch-surfed, passed up an enticing foreign job offer and amassed educational debt all in pursuit of the dream that ultimately came true: A six-figure Silicon Valley job.

As long as it took Wang to achieve his goal, it disap-

peared in record time.

Wang was working at Seagate Technology under an immigration provision known as Optional Practical Training, which gives those on student visas permission to work. But that expired last year, and because his H-1B application was in flux, he was forced to take a leave from Seagate and withdraw from the master's program he was pursuing at Berkeley. He says he and his company dutifully responded to an RFE, compiling examples of his work at Seagate. But on Jan. 11, Wang got a final answer: He was denied an H-1B.

"All I wanted was to be able to see my American dream," he said.

Sandra Feist, an immigration attorney in Minneapolis, said talented foreigners discouraged by the visa process are beginning to look at opportunities in other countries, and she questions what that means for America's future, especially if top-tier researchers who could contribute to science and medicine are turned away.

One of her clients, a computer systems analyst from India with a master's degree from a U.S. college, filed his petition for an H-1B in April 2017 with 101 pages of documentation. He received an RFE, and a 176-page response was filed, with additional paperwork attempting to prove just how complicated the position was. He was denied. Feist filed a 282-page appeal, requesting that the file be reopened. Though the appeal was approved, there was a second RFE, which Feist said raises the same issues she already responded to.

With a U.S. work visa unlikely, that client is applying for permanent residency in Canada with his wife and U.S. citizen child. □

Associated Press

Strong winds, snowy weather hit West Coast

By SCOTT SONNER

Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — A fierce winter storm packing winds in excess of 100 mph (160 kph) and predicted to bring as much as 8 feet (2.4 meters) of snow to the Sierra Nevada barreled into the West Coast on Monday, toppling trucks, triggering power outages and temporarily closing the major highway near Reno.

Up to a foot (30 centimeters) of snow already had fallen in parts of Oregon, forcing school closures and delays, and a blizzard warning was in effect in parts of Montana.

Winds gusting to 110 mph (177 kph) were recorded at the summit of the Squaw Valley ski resort near Lake Tahoe, and up to 84 mph (135 kph) in the valleys along the Sierra's eastern front where Interstate 580 was closed off and on between Reno and Carson City.

Two trucks overturned on

I-580 and another on nearby U.S. 395 in the Washoe Valley, where one non-life threatening injury was reported.

At one point as many as 6,000 NV Energy customers were without power in the Reno-Sparks area, but power had been restored to about half by Monday afternoon.

Schools throughout Oregon delayed start times or closed altogether. About a foot of snow (30 centimeters) was reported in areas including Eugene and Bend, producing slick roads and causing canceled flights at Portland's airport. The city of Eugene declared an ice/snow emergency requiring drivers to remove vehicles from snow emergency routes.

Devon Ashbridge, a spokesperson for Lane County, said that although snow plow crews had been working since Sunday, roadways were still relatively treacherous with hun-



An unidentified man uses a rolled over high profile vehicle to shield himself from the wind on the Interstate 580 south of Reno, Nev., on Monday Feb 25, 2019.

Associated Press

dreds of downed trees and power lines across county roads.

A swath of western Montana from Missoula through the Bitterroot Valley was under a blizzard warning through Monday evening, with an inch or two (2 ½ to 5 centimeters) of snow expected to fall each hour. The National Weather Service has issued winter storm

warnings and advisories for most of the rest of Montana through Tuesday morning. In the Sierra along the California-Nevada line, a winter storm warning remained in effect for the Lake Tahoe area until 4 a.m. Thursday. The forecast calls for winds gusting in excess of 140 mph (225 kph) over ridgetops.

"Periods of white-out condi-

tions are likely," the National Weather Service in Reno said. "Very strong winds could cause extensive tree damage."

No new snow had fallen in the Sierra by Monday afternoon, but 2 to 4 feet (61 to 122 centimeters) is expected over the three days, with 4 to 8 feet (1.2 to 2.4 meters) possible above elevations of 7,000 feet (2,134 meters), including where U.S. Interstate 80 crosses the top of the Sierra at Donner Pass southwest of Truckee, California.

The latest storm will be a "marathon rather than a sprint," the service said, in terms of accumulation with several wet feet of new snow expected over top of a drier layer of powdery snow through early Thursday.

"Travel will be tough and possibly impossible at times through the Sierra with no clear break in snowfall once this begins," the service said. □

High winds cut power, inundate Lake Erie shoreline with ice

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — High winds howled through much of the eastern U.S. for a second day Monday, cutting power to hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses, closing schools, and pushing dramatic mounds of ice onto the shores of Lake Erie.

Wind gusts of hurricane force — 74 mph (119 kph) — or higher were reported around the region, including West Virginia and New York. While atop Mount Washington, the Northeast's highest peak of 6,288 feet (1,916 meters) in New Hampshire, a gust of 144 mph (231 kph) was recorded.

Toppled trees and power poles, easy targets for strong winds that uprooted them from ground saturated by rain and snow-melt, plunged homes and businesses into darkness, though in most places power was expected back

quickly as winds died down by the end of Monday. Hundreds of schools were delayed or canceled in New York alone.

The wind peeled off roofs in places. In Syracuse, New York, scaffolding blown off a building knocked down power lines.

Wind advisories and warnings were in effect through Monday in the mid-Atlantic and Northeast up to northern New England. In Maine, police say a trucker blamed wind for causing his tractor-trailer loaded with bananas to swerve and overturn on the Maine Turnpike. While in Sandusky, Ohio, a motorist captured video of a tractor-trailer flipping over on a bridge. Giant chunks of ice spilled over the banks of the Niagara River across from Buffalo on Sunday, creating a jagged, frosty barrier between the river and a scenic road.

Dramatic footage captured by park police in Ontario showed the massive chunks roiling onto shore. High winds had raised water levels on the eastern end of Lake Erie in a phenomenon known as a seiche and then, according to the New York Power Authority, driven ice over a boom upstream from the river.

Ice mounds 25 to 30 feet (8 to 9 meters) high also came ashore farther south, piling up on several lake-front properties in suburban Hamburg.

"We've had storms in the past, but nothing like this," resident Dave Schultz told WGRZ. "We've never had the ice pushed up against the walls and right up onto our patios. ... It's in my patio, the neighbor's patio, and the patio after that."

A voluntary evacuation for the area was issued Sunday. □



A family walks near a massive build up of ice that was pushed onto the shore of Mather Park in Fort Erie, Ont., Monday, February 25, 2019.

Associated Press

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Judge OKs settlement from nation's largest natural gas leak

By BRIAN MELLEY

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A California judge on Monday approved a \$120 million court settlement from the nation's largest-known natural gas leak.

Judge Carolyn Kuhl in Los Angeles Superior Court signed a consent decree putting the settlement into effect after saying her role was limited in overseeing a deal between Southern California Gas Co. and the state and city of LA.

"If I find, as I was supposed to find, that it didn't violate the law or public policy, that's the end of my determination," Kuhl said.

The settlement was criticized by environmentalists for plans to mitigate the large amount of climate-changing methane that spewed for nearly four months from the 2015 blowout at the Aliso Canyon gas storage facility.

Environmental groups complained the utility would get full credit for projects partly funded by state money to capture methane from dairy farms in the state's farm belt — more than 100 miles (160 kilometers) from where the blowout occurred on the edge of Los Angeles.



In this Jan 7, 2016, file photo, a sign declares the boundary line of the Southern California Gas Company gas fields where a gas well leaked methane near the community Porter Ranch, Calif.

Associated Press

"They get to count methane reduction that was already happening on the public dime," said attorney Nina Robertson of Earthjustice.

More than a fifth of the settlement will go to funding mitigation of the 109,000 metric tons of methane released after the well blowout. The incident sent a sulfurous stench over the community of Porter Ranch, where residents

complained of headaches, nausea, nose bleeds and other symptoms.

The company has spent more than \$1 billion related to the blowout with the majority of that going to temporarily relocate 8,000 families, according to filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The utility still faces more than 385 lawsuits on behalf of 48,000 people.

Under the settlement, the

utility agreed to pay up to \$25 million to study long-term health consequences; reimburse city, county and state governments for responding to the incident; and monitor chemicals in the air near the facility for eight years. Costs of the settlement can't be passed along to ratepayers.

The mitigation part of the deal calls for the utility to pay \$26.5 million toward technology that captures

methane from lagoons of cow manure and pipes it into the natural gas supply chain to be used to fuel trucks that run on compressed natural gas.

A coalition of environmental groups criticized that decision as an inefficient way to absorb the methane and said it would lead to larger and more concentrated dairies and lead to smoggier air in the already heavily polluted San Joaquin Valley while also creating more natural gas infrastructure at a time when cleaner alternatives are needed.

They joined the chorus of residents directly affected by the blowout in calling for mitigation in the Los Angeles area where there are plenty of sources where methane could be reduced.

"Fix what you broke where you broke it," said Phoebe Seaton of the Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability. Representatives from the attorney general's office and the California Air Resources Board would not comment in advance of the hearing, but the air board defended the settlement in a response to public comments filed in the court case. □

Trump Org donates nearly \$200k to cover foreign profits

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump's company said on Monday that it donated nearly \$200,000 to the U.S. Treasury to make good on its promise two years ago to hand over profits from foreign governments using its properties. The Trump Organization said a check for \$191,538 sent to Treasury represents profits from embassy parties, hotel stays and other foreign government spending at its Washington hotel and other properties last year. The voluntary donation is up from \$151,470 sent a year ago to cover the president's first calendar year in office.

Trump announced the donation plan before his inauguration two years ago

in response to criticism that in refusing to sell off his business, people would suspect his decisions in office would be influenced by spending at his properties and not necessarily reflect the public interest.

Since then, Kuwait, the Philippines and other foreign governments have thrown parties at his Washington hotel, and Trump has been sued by good-government groups and others alleging he is violating the emoluments clauses of the Constitution by opening his door to such business.

Those clauses ban presidents from accepting gifts or payments from foreign or domestic governments without permission from Congress.

The president's adult sons running the business have bristled at the charge they are profiting off the presidency.

"Unlike any other luxury hospitality company, we do not market to or solicit foreign government business," said Eric Trump, an executive vice president of the Trump Organization. "In fact, we go to great lengths to discourage foreign government patronage at our properties."

The company did not respond to requests for detail on how it has discouraged foreign government spending.

In addition to Treasury donations, Trump agreed not to strike any foreign deals for his business while in of-

fice, and to hire an outside counsel to vet any domestic deals for possible conflicts of interest. The Trump Organization has said that it has made "tremendous sacrifices" by putting brakes on its business expansion.

Earlier this month, Eric Trump and his brother, Donald Jr., announced they were scrapping plans to roll out two new hotel chains in the U.S. due to intense media scrutiny and what it called a hostile political environment.

Donald Trump Jr. on Monday told Fox News that Manhattan federal prosecutors investigating the president's inaugural committee and family business were engaging in "Stalinist"

tactics, where if they "massage things enough," a crime can be found.

The Treasury donations have been criticized by watchdog groups and Democrats as insufficient and shrouded in secrecy. They say the money doesn't cover all of Trump's properties, such as resorts, and its unclear how the company is calculating profits.

Trump is facing two lawsuits charging that he is violating the Constitution's emoluments provisions. The president's lawyers argue that the framers of the Constitution's ban on foreign gifts and payments did not intend for it to include such ordinary business transactions as hotel stays. □



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Iowa diocese identifies 28 priests accused of abusing minors

By RYAN J. FOLEY
Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — At least 28 priests are credibly accused of having sexually abused more than 100 boys and girls while working for a Roman Catholic diocese in Iowa, church officials announced Monday. The Diocese of Sioux City identified those 28 priests as it published a long-awaited list of those who have been the subject of credible allegations of sexual abuse involving minors. The list included about 5 percent of the priests who have worked for the diocese at some point since its inception in 1902. A 29th priest has been accused but his name is being withheld pending an appeal to the Vatican.

"Publishing this list is the beginning of a new chapter in the history of our diocese," said Bishop R. Walker Nickless, who released the list at a news conference. "We want it to usher in a climate of openness and transparency, resulting in the protection of our youth and accountability for clergy and church leaders."

He said releasing information about the church's "shameful history" might help some victims heal while reopening old wounds for others.

Advocates for abuse victims had long urged the diocese to release such a list, as two of Iowa's three other Roman Catholic dioceses have done. The diocese had promised to do so in November after an investigation by The Associated Press exposed its 32-



This August 2010 photo provided by Reuben Ortiz, shows retired Catholic priest Jerome Coyle in Albuquerque, N.M.

Associated Press

year cover-up of the Rev. Jerome Coyle, who had allegedly confessed to abusing more than 50 boys over a 20-year period.

The diocese, which operates churches and schools throughout northwestern Iowa, urged victims to come forward at that time. Its review board has spent recent weeks reviewing files and weighing the credibility of allegations.

The diocese said the alleged abuse took place between 1948 and 1995 and involved 106 individuals who have come forward to make claims. Additional complaints of abuse have been made more recently, but none have been deemed credible by police or a church review

board, the diocese said. Attorney Levi Monagle, whose New Mexico law firm represents clergy abuse victims, said the release of such lists is an important gesture that usually helps some victims heal and inspires others to come forward. He praised Albuquerque resident Reuben Ortiz, who became aware of Coyle's abuse last year while the priest was living with Ortiz's family and made it public.

Ortiz's disclosure prompted the diocese to move Coyle out of an Iowa retirement home where he was quietly living next to a Catholic school, and provided the "jolt to the status quo" that the diocese needed to finalize and release the

long-discussed list, Monagle said.

"It's tragic that it took so long for this information to come out," said Monagle, whose firm represents one man who was allegedly abused by Coyle decades ago.

All but six of the priests on the list have died. Those who are still living are not involved in the ministry or active with youth, and have been stripped of their ability to celebrate mass or represent themselves as priests, the diocese said.

One of the accused, John Perdue, 71, told the AP that his inclusion on the list was embarrassing but that he denies the allegation of abusing a boy in the 1980s. The Iowa Court of Appeals

in 2011 dismissed lawsuits filed against Perdue and another priest by two alleged victims, ruling that the statute of limitations had expired.

Diocese officials acknowledged the list is likely incomplete because additional victims have not come forward. For instance, the diocese said that it was aware of 13 victims of Coyle even though he allegedly confessed to abusing dozens more.

The list included 39 victims of the Rev. George McFadden, whose abuse has long been documented and spawned an array of civil lawsuits, and 11 victims of the Rev. Peter Murphy. More than half of the identified priests, however, only have one known accuser. The list does not include former Sioux City Bishop Lawrence Soens even though he allegedly abused boys while he was a priest and principal. Soens, who retired as bishop in 1998, is not included on the list because the allegations date to when he worked for a different diocese.

The list also did not include a priest who was removed from the ministry in 2017 after being accused of improperly touching a girl's leg during confession, or an active priest who chased after an adult parishioner in 2013 while naked and yelling about raping her. Those cases didn't meet the criteria used by the review board, a spokeswoman said. The diocese says it had paid \$4.7 million in legal settlements to 58 individuals since 2002. □

Main UK opposition party takes step to back new Brexit vote

By JILL LAWLESS

LORNE COOK

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Theresa May returned from a seemingly unproductive meeting with European Union leaders Monday to a growing attempt by British lawmakers to stop her from taking Britain out of the EU on March 29 without a divorce deal.

With May and the EU at odds over not just how, but when Brexit should happen, her political opponents were getting increasingly desperate to take control of Britain's muddled departure from the bloc.

At an EU-Arab League summit in Egypt, the EU warned Britain it faces the prospect of delaying its planned March 29 departure or the consequences of a chaotic exit. European Council President Donald Tusk, who chairs meetings of EU nation leaders, said Monday it would be "rational" to postpone Brexit day.

May insisted she intends for Britain to leave as planned in a little more than a month. But her often divided opponents may be coalescing around a plan to prevent Britain crashing out of the EU with no agreement in place.

The main opposition Labour Party took a big step Monday toward backing a new referendum on the country's EU membership.

The party has previously said it would support a referendum as a last resort if it could not secure a new election or make changes to May's EU divorce deal. Britain's Parliament has so far rejected the deal struck between May's government and the bloc, and is due to hold a series of votes Wednesday on next steps in the Brexit process.

Labour has proposed its



British Prime Minister Theresa May, left, meets with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of an EU-Arab League summit at the Sharm El Sheikh convention center in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, Monday, Feb. 25, 2019.

Associated Press

own withdrawal plan as an alternative to the government's deal with the EU. The party said Monday it would back a second public vote if the House of Commons rejects its plan this week, as is widely expected.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said the party is committed to "putting forward or supporting an amendment in favor of a public vote to prevent a damaging Tory Brexit being forced on the country."

The party did not specify what voters might be asked to consider in any future vote, though it has previously said the option of Britain remaining an EU member would be included. Labour has previously said it would only support a second referendum as a last resort if it could not secure a new general election or make changes to May's divorce deal.

The change in approach

follows the resignations of nine Labour lawmakers last week, partly over the party's failure to back another Brexit referendum. It is likely to cheer many party members, who have backed calls for a so-called "people's vote."

While there is little chance of a second referendum taking place without the support of Labour, the path to another Brexit vote is far from clear. It would require the support of numerous lawmakers from the governing Conservative Party, for example.

Since lawmakers rejected May's deal with the EU last month, the prime minister has sought to get changes from Brussels on a provision for the border between the U.K.'s Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland.

The mechanism, known as the backstop, is a safeguard that would keep the U.K. in a customs union with

the EU to remove the need for checks along the Irish border until a permanent new trading relationship is in place.

May wants to revise the deal to reassure opponents from her Conservative Party, as well as from a Northern Ireland party that props up her minority government, the backstop would only apply temporarily.

But EU leaders insist that the legally binding Brexit withdrawal agreement, which took a year and a half to negotiate, can't be reopened.

The impasse has raised concerns that Britain will leave the EU without a deal, a scenario that would likely mean new tariffs on British exports and serious disruption to trade between the two sides. The Bank of England has warned that the British economy could shrink by 8 percent in the months after a disorderly

Brexit.

May has said a new vote on any revised Brexit deal won't be held this week and could come as late as March 12.

A number of British lawmakers are seeking to wrest control of the process from the government and are looking to get support for an amendment that would require May to seek an extension to the Brexit date if Parliament fails to back her deal.

"I don't see how businesses can plan. I don't see how public services can plan, and I think it's just deeply damaging," Labour lawmaker Yvette Cooper, one of those behind the move, told the BBC.

On Monday, the EU's Tusk warned that the chances of a withdrawal agreement being concluded in time are receding, and that sticking by the planned Brexit date would be too risky.

"I believe that in the situation we are in, an extension would be a rational solution," Tusk told reporters at an EU-Arab League summit in Egypt after talks with May that he said included discussions over extending the Brexit process.

May insisted a deal in time was still possible.

"It is within our grasp to leave with a deal on 29th of March and I think that that is where all of our energies should be focused," May said.

She said that "any delay is a delay. It doesn't address the issue."

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte warned her against "sleepwalking" into a chaotic Brexit next month.

"It's absolutely unacceptable. And I think your best friends have to warn you for that," Rutte told the BBC. "Wake up. This is real." □

Pakistan building collapse kills 2 in Karachi, traps others

Associated Press

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)

— A Pakistani rescue official says at least two bodies have been recovered from a three-story building that collapsed in a suburb

of the southern port city of Karachi.

Mohammad Shaukat says the small residential building collapsed as construction work was underway next to it in the city's Malir

neighborhood on Monday morning. Shaukat says four injured, including a woman and two children, have been rescued. He says rescue workers and volunteers are searching for more

people. The narrowness of the street is preventing them from bringing in more heavy equipment.

Police officer Amir Farooqi says it's unclear how many were trapped but the

building housed two families with a total of about 13 people. Lack of implementation of safety regulations and shoddy construction often cause such incidents in Pakistan. □

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<p>TANQUI LEENDERT 139</p>  <p>4 Bed - 3 Bath, Fully Furnished Full renewed, Gourmet Kitchen land: 414 m² / 4,456 Ft² Home: 230 m² / 2,476 Ft² Afl 668.000 \$ 375.000</p>	<p>PIEDRA PLAAT 5 K</p>  <p>3 Bed - 2 Bath, Swimming-pool New, Garage, Fully Furnished land: 472 m² / 5,081 Ft² Home: 140 m² / 1,507 Ft² Afl 693.000 \$ 389.000</p>	<p>PALM BEACH 320</p>  <p>4 Bed - 3 Bath, w/guest casita Hotel area, Fully Furnished land: 520 m² / 5,597 Ft² Home: 250 m² / 2,691 Ft² Afl 801.000 \$ 450.000</p>	<p>PARADERA 179 G</p>  <p>3 Houses in One, over 489m² of Land H.1: 2Bed - 2Bath; 130m²/1400Ft² H.2: 2Bed - 2Bath; 103m²/1109Ft² H.3: 2Bed - 2Bath; 130m²/1400Ft² Afl 850.000 \$ 478.000</p>	<p>LAS CAMPEONAS 1</p>  <p>SOLD</p> <p>3 Bed - 3 Bath, Swimming-pool Tierra del Sol, Garage, Furnished land: 627 m² / 6,749 Ft² Home: 180 m² / 1,937 Ft² Afl 935.000 \$ 525.000</p>

UN court: UK must end administration of Chagos Islands

By MIKE CORDER

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — In a victory for a group of displaced Indian Ocean islanders, the United Nations' highest court said Monday that Britain must end its administration of the Chagos islands "as rapidly as possible."

The International Court of Justice ruled in an advisory opinion that is non-binding that Britain had unlawfully carved up Mauritius, which the Chagos were a part of, when it agreed to end colonial rule in the late 1960s. The court's opinion, however, carries weight since it came from the top U.N. court and could put significant pressure on London to act.

The islands are currently known as the British Indian Ocean Territory. Britain has



The Peace Palace, home of the International Court of Justice, in the Hague, Netherlands, Monday, Feb. 25, 2019.

Associated Press

in the past paid compensation to islanders, but the court says that London now needs to go further.

The U.K. government reacted to the ruling by saying that it will look "carefully"

at the ruling, while stressing that the court's view is "an advisory opinion, not a judgment."

Britain evicted about 2,000 people from the Chagos archipelago in the 1960s

and 1970s so the U.S. military could build an air base on Diego Garcia. Many resettled in the U.K. and have fought in British courts to return to the islands.

One of them was Olivier Bancoult, who said he and his family were forcibly moved to Mauritius when he was just four years old.

"Oh, I feel so happy today because it's a big victory against injustice done by the British government for many years," he said outside court.

"I am so lucky today and to have this opinion delivered by the International Court of Justice — to say what has been done to us and what has been done to Mauritius is unlawful," he added.

The court said it concluded that even though Mauri-

tius' government agreed to split off the Chagos islands shortly before the country's 1968 independence, "this detachment was not based on the free and genuine expression of the will of the people concerned."

The court said that it is up to the U.N. General Assembly to decide how to "ensure the completion of the decolonization of Mauritius."

The opinion was delivered by a majority of 13 of the court's 14 judges, with the U.S. judge, Joan E. Donoghue, dissenting.

While the United States still has a military base on Diego Garcia, the court said that in its opinion "all member states are under an obligation to cooperate with the United Nations in order to complete the decolonization of Mauritius." □

Ex-Rome mayor gets life ban on public office for corruption

ROME (AP) — A court in Italy's capital convicted a former Rome mayor of corruption and illegal financing Monday and sentenced him to six years in prison and a lifetime ban on holding public office. Prosecutors had alleged that far-right politician Gianni Alemanno received nearly 300,000 euros (\$345,000) in illegal financ-

ing through a foundation he ran, thereby skirting political party financing laws. The court acquitted Alemanno, who was elected Rome's mayor in 2008 and lost a 2013 re-election bid, of mafia association. Alemanno was allowed to remain free pending the outcome of any appeals. Leaving the courthouse, he told reporters that the "ver-

dict is wrong. We'll surely appeal," and adding, "I'm innocent."

His was one of several cases based on allegations that local mobsters created a Mafia-like clique to win lucrative public contracts and other advantages in exchange for kickbacks to City Hall officials and administrators.

As part of a sprawling inves-

tigation the Italian media dubbed "Mafia Capital," prosecutors alleged they unearthed a well-oiled system of corruption that involved politicians from right to left.

During Alemanno's trial, prosecutors alleged that suspected mobsters paid money to the foundation he ran to grease the way for cronies to be appointed

to top posts in municipal agencies, such as the one that oversaw trash collection, Italian newspapers reported.

The public contracts mobsters allegedly were eager to infiltrate included those dealing with supplying food and other services for migrants who were rescued from smugglers' boats in the Mediterranean Sea. □

Syria's Assad visits Iran in rare trip abroad

By **NASSER KARIMI**

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Syrian President Bashar Assad has made an unannounced trip to Iran, where he met with the supreme leader and other top officials to discuss the planned U.S. troop withdrawal and Turkey's efforts to set up a buffer zone in northern Syria, state media reported Monday.

Assad met with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani on the rare trip abroad — his third since the civil war broke out in 2011. The other two trips were to Russia.

Tehran has given the Syrian government billions of dollars in aid and sent Iran-backed fighters to battle alongside his forces — assistance that, along with Russian air power, has helped turn the tide in Assad's favor.

Syrian and Iranian media released photos showing Assad warmly embracing Khamenei and shaking hands with Rouhani. The visit was not announced beforehand, and both



In this photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, Syrian President Bashar Assad, left, shakes hands with Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, before their meeting in Tehran, Syria, Monday, Feb. 25, 2019.

Associated Press

countries made it public late Monday. Iran's semi-official Fars news agency said Khamenei told the visiting Assad that "the buffer zone that Americans are after in Syria

is among dangerous plots that should be rejected," and that the U.S. plan to maintain a presence in Syria near the Iraqi border "is another sample of their designs."

U.S. President Donald Trump announced in December that all American forces would leave Syria, but he recently backtracked in the face of intense criticism, saying about 200 soldiers

would remain indefinitely to help keep the peace alongside Syrian partners and prevent a resurgence of the Islamic State group.

U.S. officials said Trump's decision authorizing a small number of U.S. troops to stay is a key step in creating a larger multinational observer force that would monitor a so-called safe zone along Syria's border with Turkey. The buffer zone is meant to prevent clashes between Turkey and U.S.-backed Kurdish forces. It is also aimed at preventing Assad's forces and Iran-backed fighters from seizing more territory.

Syrian officials have blasted Turkey's plans for such a safe zone, saying both Turkish and U.S. troops are occupiers.

Assad accused the U.S. and its regional allies like Saudi Arabia of creating rifts among various religious and ethnic groups in Syria, saying such efforts have backfired.

"Today in Syria, Kurds and tribes have good relations with the government," he said, according to Fars. □

Egypt's leader says Europe cannot 'teach us' about rights

By **LORNE COOK**

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (AP) — Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi defended on Monday his country's widely-criticized human rights record and warned the nations of Europe not to lecture the Arab world.

In a fiery speech after a summit of European Union and Arab League leaders, el-Sissi said that Europe is prosperous and does not understand the concerns of many Arab countries that are struggling to prevent conflict from tearing them apart.

"You are not going to teach us about humanity," he told reporters after the issue was raised at a news conference. "We have our own sense of humanity, values and ethics, and you have your own idea of humanity and ethics, and we respect it. Respect our values and

ethics, as we do yours."

"This city, through one terrorist act, could be turned into a ghost city," el-Sissi said. Egypt's tourism industry was hard hit after a bomb downed a Russian passenger plane flying out of Sharm el-Sheikh airport in 2015.

El-Sissi was applauded after his remarks, prompting European Council President Donald Tusk to say: "I really appreciate how enthusiastic your media are. It's impossible in Europe to have such a reaction. Congratulations."

No concerns about human rights in Egypt — or any of the other 48 countries — were raised publicly in Sharm el-Sheikh, even amid an unprecedented crack-down on dissent and a recent spike in executions. At least 15 people have been put to death this year.

The summit statement



European Council President Donald Tusk, left, and Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, right, attend a round table meeting at an EU-Arab summit at the Sharm El Sheikh convention center in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019.

Associated Press

made no general appeal for human rights to be respected.

"No one in particular talked about one country or another, or the practices in one country or another," Arab League Secretary General Ahmed Aboul

Gheit told reporters.

But European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker insisted that "it is not true that we did not talk about human rights." Juncker said the issue was raised behind closed doors in bilateral meetings be-

tween leaders. But he did not name any country.

The meeting, held under tight security, was offered by the Europeans to el-Sissi in October in part to secure Egypt's help to stop people seeking sanctuary or jobs in Europe from leaving northern Africa.

A similar summit was granted to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in 2015 — then later billions in aid for refugees in Turkey and other incentives — to persuade him to help halt the flow of well over a million migrants into Europe.

Mired in a deep political crisis over their inability to stem migrant arrivals or share the burden with countries like Greece, Italy and Spain, the Europeans want the Egyptian coast-guard to patrol the waters off lawless Libya and take migrants back to the African mainland. □

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Vietnam vows 'maximum level' security for Trump-Kim summit

By FOSTER KLUG
Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — With North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on an armored train barreling through China toward Vietnam's capital, and U.S. President Donald Trump en route to Hanoi, Vietnamese officials scrambled Monday to finish preparations for a rushed summit that will capture global attention. Officials in Hanoi said they had about 10 days to prepare for the summit — much less than the nearly two months they said Singapore was given for the first Trump-Kim meeting last year— but still vowed to provide airtight security for the two leaders.

"Security will be at the maximum level," Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Le Hoai Trung told reporters at a briefing meant to showcase the nation's efforts to welcome Kim and Trump.

Another official, Nguyen Manh Hung, the leader of the information ministry, said the 3,000 journalists from 40 countries expected in Hanoi could rely on his agency as "you'd count on a family member."

The world will be watching as Trump and Kim deal with one of Asia's biggest security challenges: North Korea's pursuit of a nuclear program that stands on the verge of viably threatening any target on the planet.

Although many experts are skeptical that Kim will give up the nukes he likely sees as his best guarantee of continued rule, there was a palpable, carnival-like excitement among many in Hanoi as the final prepara-



Vietnamese soldiers stand guard at the entrance to Dong Dang train station where North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is expected to arrive at the border town with China, in Dong Dang, Lang Son province, Vietnam, Monday, Feb. 25, 2019.

Associated Press

tions were put in place.

T-shirts were being sold bearing Kim's face along with the phrase "Rocket Man," a nod to the insulting nickname Trump gave Kim in 2017, when North Korean weapons tests and back-and-forth threats by the leaders had many fearing war. Kindergarteners dressed in traditional Korean Hanbok were practicing songs meant to welcome Kim. Grinning tourists were posing in front of the hundreds of U.S. and North Korean flags around the city. The ultra-tight security will be appreciated by North Korean authorities, who are extremely vigilant about the safety of Kim, the third member of his family to rule the North with absolute power. Kim's decision to take a train, not a plane, may have been influenced by better ability to control

security. When Kim flew to Singapore, North Korea borrowed a Chinese plane. Vietnam is eager to show off its huge economic and development improvements since the destruction of the Vietnam War, but the country also tolerates no dissent and is able to provide the kind of firm hand not allowed by more democratic potential hosts. Take the reaction to two men impersonating Kim and Trump who'd been posing for pictures with curious onlookers ahead of the summit.

Last week, the Kim look-alike, whose name is Lee Howard Ho Wun, posted on Facebook that about 15 police or immigration officers demanded a mandatory "interview" and threatened him with deportation. He said officials later told him that his visa was invalid

and he had to leave the country.

"I feel a little bit annoyed," the Hong Kong-based impersonator, who uses the name Howard X, said as he checked out of his hotel. "But what is to be expected of a one-party state with no sense of humor?"

Vietnam has also announced an unprecedented traffic ban along a possible arrival route for Kim. The Communist Party's Nhan Dan newspaper quoted the Roads Department as saying the ban will affect the 169-kilometer (105-mile) stretch of Highway One from Dong Dang, on the border with China, to Hanoi.

Hundreds of soldiers guarded the area near the Dong Dang railway station on Monday ahead of Kim's expected arrival. Kim may get off his train in Dong

Dang and finish his journey to Hanoi by car.

"Dong Dang station will receive leader Kim Jong Un's train, after it passes the Vietnam-China border, starting his official visit to Vietnam and attend USA-DPRK summit," Vietnam's Government Office said in a statement. DPRK is an abbreviation of North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

There are high expectations for the Hanoi summit after a vague declaration at the first meeting in June in Singapore that disappointed many.

In a meeting with senior aides in Seoul, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Monday that the Trump-Kim talks would be a critical opportunity to achieve peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Moon, who met Kim three times last year and has lobbied hard to revive nuclear diplomacy between the U.S. and North Korea, is eager for a breakthrough that would allow him to push ambitious plans for inter-Korean engagement, including lucrative joint economic projects that are held back by U.S.-led sanctions against the North.

"If President Trump succeeds in dissolving the world's last remaining Cold War rivalry, it will become yet another great feat that will be indelibly recorded in world history," Moon said.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on "Fox News Sunday" that he was hoping for a "substantive step forward." He cautioned, "it may not happen, but I hope that it will." □

Cellphone internet access bringing changes fast to Cuba

By **ANDREA RODRIGUEZ**

HAVANA (AP) — After a tornado slammed Havana in late January, Mijail Ramirez complained on Twitter that authorities were threatening to evict him from his damaged home. A week later he said the government had changed its mind and would help him rebuild the house.

Jorge Luis Leon used the official Twitter account of a Cuban vice president to request that hospital waiting rooms have seating for family members, while a group of young people launched "Sube," a ride-hailing app for the aging American sedans that ply the streets of Havana.

In the 2 1/2 months since Cuba allowed its citizens internet access via cellphones, fast-moving changes are subtle but palpable as Cubans challenge government officials online, post photos of filthy school bathrooms and drag what was one of the world's least-connected countries into the digital age. Communist authorities, in turn, are having to learn how to deal with more visible pressure coming from outside of party-controlled popular and neighborhood committees.

"Life has changed," said Alberto Cabrera, 25, who is part of the team that developed the Sube app.



A man holds his phone showing the app "Sube," a ride-hailing app for the aging American sedans on the streets of Havana, in Havana, Cuba, Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019.

Associated Press

"You see it when you walk down the street. The other day, looking from the roof of my house I could see that a neighbor had mobile internet service, as did the person in front and the person beyond him. You never saw that before."

In the first 40 days after Dec. 6, when people could start buying internet access packages for 3G service, 1.8 million Cubans on this island of 11 million purchased the services. A government report last week said about 6.4 million residents use the internet and social networks.

Previously, nearly all Cu-

bans could use mobile phones to link only to their state-run email accounts unless they connected to the internet at a limited number of government-sponsored Wi-Fi spots.

"We are in a process of learning about how to use the data" packages, said Claudia Cuevas, 26, a university professor and member of the Sube team. "Before you went to the park (with Wi-Fi zones) once a week to communicate with your family."

The history of the internet in Cuba has been rife with tensions and suspicions since it began in the

1990s. Cuba's government accused Washington of blocking its access to the fiber optical cables near the island, forcing it to use an expensive and slow satellite service. It was only in 2011 that Cuba got access to a submarine cable with the help of Venezuela. And it wasn't until 2015 that the general population gained access through the opening of Wi-Fi points in hundreds of parks.

Critics of the communist government said it resisted giving Cubans free access to the internet because it feared a free inflow of information. Government sup-

porters said it was fighting efforts by Washington to undermine Cuba's communist system and revolution.

"For a while, the internet generated fear among Cuba's leaders and there was a long wait," said Harold Cardenas, a pro-revolutionary blogger and Cuba specialist who now resides in the United States. "It was collateral damage from the dynamics of the Cold War prolonged in Cuba for decades."

Cardenas said that what Cuba can expect is "more citizen participation, incorporation into global digital trends and challenges for the new president."

People questioned by The Associated Press agreed that using the internet has become more practical since the recent arrival of cellphone access. Cubans are moving from state telephone company ETECSA to WhatsApp, searching for information on the internet and reaching out to government officials through Facebook and Twitter.

Julio Aguirre Lusson, 25, a DJ who has had a YouTube channel called TecnoLike-Cuba for a year, says he has noticed the impact.

"Previously, the country with the most subscribers to my channel ... was Spain, followed by the United States, and Cuba third. Now the highest number are Cubans," he said.

Aguirre said, however, that there are still many limitations from both outside and inside Cuba. For example, there are obstacles facing local developers who want to enter their products in places like Google Play store. And in Cuba, developers face a paralysis in the delivery of operating licenses so they can work within a legal framework.

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel opened a Twitter account prior to December and recently ordered all his ministers and senior leaders to do the same. But many of them only retweet official messages or propaganda slogans without providing their own content or answering citizens' questions.

1 month after Brazil dam collapse, stricter rules passed



In this Jan. 28, 2019 file photo, firefighters prepare a body to be lifted away by a helicopter, after pulling the dead person from the mud days after a dam collapse in Brumadinho, Brazil.

Associated Press

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The Brazilian state of Minas Gerais is banning the type of dam that collapsed a month ago, leading to the death of at least 179 people.

The bill was signed Monday by Minas Gerais Gov. Romeu Zema even as recovery teams continued looking for 131 people still missing from the collapse in the city of Brumadinho. The legislation gives companies 90 days to present plans to substitute the dams within three years.

A similar bill was introduced in 2016 following the rupture of another upstream tailings dam that killed 19 people. That proposal by state legislator Joao Vitor Xavier didn't pass.

Xavier says the staggering death toll in Brumadinho woke lawmakers up to the dangers of mining dams.

LOCAL



Renaissance Aruba Resort hosts traditional Carnival party for the mentally disabled



ORANJESTAD— Last Friday the Foundation for the Mentally disabled 'Stichting Verstandelijk Gehandicapten Aruba' (SVGA) celebrated their carnival party for the 19th consecutive year at the Renaissance Aruba Resort, which is now

part of Wind Creek Hospitality. A total of 325 people including children, adults and coaches took part in this celebration. Renaissance Convention Center took care of the decorations and catering for the party.

"Every year we take time to celebrate with the children and this year was no exception", says Mr. Gielen, General Manager of the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino and Wind Creek Hospitality. "We believe in inclusion." This is the 19th year in which the foundation SVGA celebrates at the Renaissance with all their clients singing and dancing without making distinction. This is a good example for the entire community.

Mr. Gielen also received a special gift from the foundation as thank you for the support they have received for all these years. □



The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island

ORANJESTAD — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitor. The Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were the lovely couple William and **Nicola Kale** together with **Dylan Vanco** all from USA!

These wonderful people stated that they love the island very much, especially for the year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, its safety, the delicious variety of foods and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the Renaissance Ocean Suites presented the certificate to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □



Island Insight

The Caquetios of Cayciba, Rock island agro ceramists.



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Episode VII: Dabauroid pottery

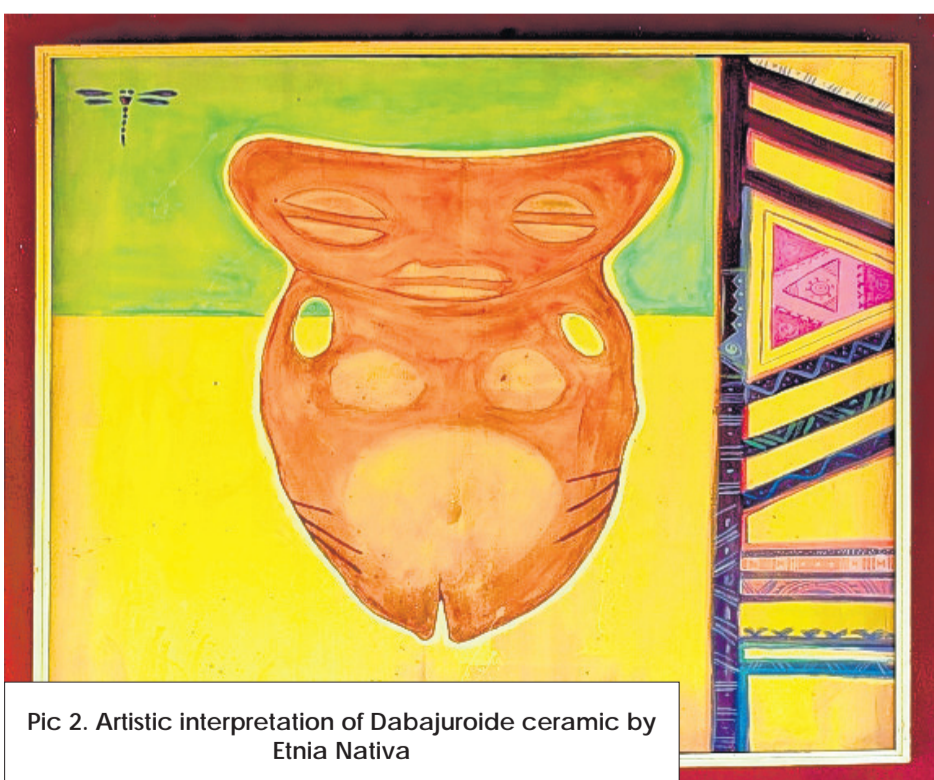
As mentioned in our last episode, we call these Ceramic Amerindians, after the specific style of their pottery and their anagogic or mystical ceramic decorations. Such pottery was excavated the first by archaeologists near Dabajuro, a city and municipality in Southwestern Falcón State of Venezuelan mainland. Which gave the Latinized name to distinguish its handsome and well elaborated pottery as can be seen exposed in our Archaeological Museum in Oranjestad, the pearl of our capital city.



Pic 1. Dabajuroide ceramic decorations

Another important category is formed by the very large vessels. These have been found in association with burials, but most probably they were also used intensively in every -day- life to store large quantities of liquids, seeds and roots. All pots and vessels are formed by hand (no use of potter's wheel) in a coiling technique. The clay is tempered with crushed quartz particles. The larger size vessels demonstrate the mastery and Excellency of the Dabajuro potters: it is difficult to fire such a large vessel in a simple oven: as soon as temperature differences develop within the oven, such vessels will crack.

The decorated pottery is thinner and of a very fine quality. Two main decoration techniques have been used: painted designs and applique modeling. The painted parts are mainly darker as compared to the lighter-background or color of the vessel. Colors as brown, reddish brown, red and black were used. The other decoration technique is modeling, ranging from simple motifs as corrugated rims, extra applique rings around the



Pic 2. Artistic interpretation of Dabajuroide ceramic by Etnia Nativa



Pic 3. 3 Larger Ceramic Sites

rim of the vessel, to complicated ones such as interpreting stylized animal heads, such as frogs, bats, birds, turtles etc. Also human heads, anthropomorphic effigy-vessels and complete stylized animals where produced. It is evident that pottery was very important for the Amerindian of the Ceramic Period. It was not only used for different daily uses, as mentioned above, but it also was used in burial practices, agro-religious as well as shamanic ceremonies. We conclude from this evidence that it had a very important place in the preparation of food and the ritual, symbolic, and religious life of the Dabajuroids.

Caquetio ceramic sites

The ceramic period's sites of the Island are distinguished from other groups by the occurrence of pottery shreds in a vast quantity and the structural architecture of their dwellings. The criteria are to be precise which sites are Pre-ceramic and how to distinguish these from the Agro-ceramic tribe's sites. In spite of these problems 58 sites in total have been classified as Ceramic Period sites. In the number of sites that had an open hearth burning during the Ceramic period (ca 1000-1515 AD). While probably 2 stone exploitation sites were perhaps also used by the Pre-ceramic Period people which should be included in this time frame, and 6 sites that have Ceramic Period and Colonial artifacts. The latter 6 are also considered as Colonial Amerindian Period sites. Predominant within the archaeological record are three sites: Tanki Flip inland East Aruba, Santa Cruz inland Central Aruba and Savaneta at coastal South-West Aruba. These sites are situat-

ed more or less on one straight line to each other within a distance of 6.8 km between Tanki flip and Santa Cruz and 8 km respectively between St. Cruz and Savaneta. Surface findings and excavation production in the subsoil of these sites suggest that all three were large, permanently inhabited villages for considerable periods of times.

Large-scale excavations between 1974 and 1976 yielded hundreds of postholes and other features at Santa Cruz and Savaneta, respectively 5000 postholes and other features. Tanki Flip site was excavated in 1995; excavations in the north part of this site resulted in the find of larger oval structures and smaller round ones. Such quantity of posthole concentrations suggest long periods of permanent inhabitation.

These are the three large villages, and only 2 sites are classified in the medium category: Tanki Lender and Parkietenbos-west. The extent and density of finds is considerable but less than the three earlier discussed sites. They are interpreted as permanent settlements for at least some decades by a not very small population. Parkietenbos-W is an exception within the group of 5 large/relatively large terrains. This site only yielded undecorated, relatively coarse pottery up to now. All four other terrains evidenced appreciable quantities of Dabajuro decorated pottery.

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Aruba Marriott Complex Names New General Manager

PALM BEACH — Karen Chastain has been named **General Manager** of the Aruba Marriott Complex. In her new role, Chastain is responsible for providing strategic management of operations at Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino, Marriott Aruba Surf Club, and Marriott Aruba Ocean Club.

Chastain brings with her more than two decades of senior leadership experience with the Marriott brand and has held numerous general manager positions at Marriott hotels across the United States, most recently at Fort Lauderdale Marriott Harbor Beach Resort and Spa, FL.

"I've been fortunate enough to work on both coasts of the US with Marriott, and can't wait to see what the vibrant island of Aruba and the Marriott Complex have in store," said Chastain. "In addition to taking the helm at one of Marriott's most prominent Caribbean properties, I look forward to immersing myself in the local culture

to build lasting and mutually beneficial relationships with the community."

Chastain has a strong background in financial leadership and a proven track record in sales, management and operations. She is passionate about staff development and is highly focused on ensuring guest satisfaction.

Chastain is a graduate of Ball State University, and holds a B.S. in accounting.

About Aruba Marriott:

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino opened its door in 1995 and boasts 414 guestrooms. In 1999 the Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club opened its door with 311 guestrooms and in 2004 Marriott's Aruba Surf Club was opened with 900 guestrooms. The Aruba Marriott family consists of about 1100 associates. The Aruba Marriott Complex is the largest in the Caribbean in terms of total guestrooms as well total employees. □





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Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today's newspaper we received a great picture from:

Greg & Jackie Berry from New Hampshire. They wrote:

**Aruba to us is...
Friendly Iguana's at
Tropicana Resort.**

The lovely couple has been coming to the island since 1995 and consider Aruba their Paradise. □



Bohemian Restaurant: Check In Please



PALM BEACH — Avant-garde from France, non-conformist in style and ethnic in cuisine. That is what the new kid in town is about and **WEDNESDAY NIGHT** they even top the eclectic vibe with live Flamenco singer Angela Baidez. Bohemian Restaurant is a different swing, European flair and outside dining, a place from the same owner as the for years already successful Casa Tua restaurants. They know their dance well, but this time they lift it to a different level.

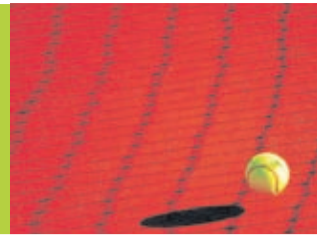
hemian Restaurant is a different swing, European flair and outside dining, a place from the same owner as the for years already successful Casa Tua restaurants. They know their dance well, but this time they lift it to a different level.

From 8 PM tomorrow night Spanish Paella and much more is on the menu, of course with pairing wines. The beautiful garden of Bohemian will be filled with lights, good food and live music in an intimate, hip and offbeat ambiance. Catchy Rumba Gitana and dramatic Spanish ballads combine with the passionately prepared dishes to tickle your taste buds to the max. Bohemian Restaurant is located on the corner of Barceló Resort in the center of the hi-rise frenzy. Free Parking available at the parking lot in front of Barcelo Resort.

Make your reservations through their website: <https://bohemianaruba.com>. Call them at 00 297 280 8448. Facebook: Bohemian. □



SPORTS



South Africa's runner Caster Semenya, current 800-meter Olympic gold medalist and world champion, arrives for the first day of her hearing at the international Court of Arbitration for Sport, CAS, in Lausanne, Switzerland, Monday, Feb. 18, 2019.

Associated Press

Slowing Caster Semenya would diminish her sport

By JOHN LEICESTER

PARIS (AP) — In a Swiss court last week, the governing body of track fought to slow some athletes down.

Yup, a sports organization that celebrates human speed and which talks paternalistically about "empowering girls and women," also argues that some women athletes are so naturally advantaged that they must be rendered less athletic.

The IAAF, which governs track and field globally, dresses this aim in compassionate language and seeming sporting logic. It talks of "levelling the playing field" for women and wanting "to ensure fair and meaningful competition."

Continued on Page 22

NO PLACE LIKE HOME



Knicks shockingly win at home; avoid NBA record

San Antonio Spurs guards Patty Mills (8) and DeMar DeRozan (10) watch New York Knicks center Mitchell Robinson (26) dunks during the second half of an NBA basketball game in New York, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019. The Knicks defeated the Spurs 130-118, avoiding tying an NBA record for home losses.

Associated Press
Page 19

New NASCAR rules package gets early passing grade

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

HAMPTON, Ga. (AP) — The verdict is still out on NASCAR's new competition package following its innocuous debut at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

The race was not the best in NASCAR history, nor was it unwatchable.

It was, if nothing else, better than last year's race at Atlanta and that is a win for NASCAR right now. Series officials finally conceded last season that the on-track product was failing to attract new fans and needed an overhaul.

The result was a package that reduced horsepower and increased downforce, efforts to bring the cars closer together and present more passing opportunities. What that actually meant on the track was a mystery before Sunday's race at Atlanta, won by Brad Keselowski following his brief bout with a stomach virus.

The trouble with the debut is that Atlanta is unlike any other intermediate track in NASCAR and the asphalt on the 1.54-mile quad-oval is the oldest in the series. The track is rough and bumpy, passing is always difficult

and the racing is not likely to be replicated again this season.

So Atlanta was really just a sneak peek of what NASCAR hopes will dramatically improve over its upcoming three-week West Coast swing.

"I'd have to say a solid B. No one gets an A on their first exam, I don't think," winning team owner Roger Penske said.

From his vantage point high above the track on the spotter stand, Penske said, he twice watched Joey Logano pick his way through traffic to the front of the pack. He saw drivers using the preferred top lane slip to the bottom going into Turn 2 and stay there down the straightaway, and the cars generally just seemed under control.

"You didn't see any accidents, which maybe the fans like that, but I thought overall the package showed well," Penske said. "It wasn't a crash-fest, which everybody said it was going to be potentially. It looks like there's a lot of equal cars running out there. It's going to come up to the drivers and the strategy, which is what we want."



Brad Keselowski leads a row of cars as they come through the front stretch during a Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Atlanta Motor Speedway, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019, in Hampton, Ga. Keselowski won the race.

Associated Press

The Atlanta race was better than it had been the last several years because the leader did not pull out to an enormous and uncatchable gap.

The 25 lead changes were more than the last three Atlanta races and Martin Truex Jr. was in a legitimate chase for the lead in the closing laps. Truex lost to Keselowski by 0.21 of a second, but even Keselowski admitted he wouldn't have been able to hold off Truex if the race had been any longer.

Restarts bunched the field and led to drivers fanning out three- and four-wide as they jockeyed for position. Eventually they ended up in a single-file line, as is the norm at Atlanta and many

other intermediate tracks, but Kyle Larson and Kevin Harvick managed to trade the lead several times in a spirited battle at the midway point of the race.

NASCAR was pleased with Sunday's show. Chief racing development officer Steve O'Donnell declared it a "a fairly entertaining race."

But everyone understood that this weekend's race at Las Vegas will be a closer indicator of how the racing will be this year.

"When you looked at this race going in, I think for us, this was the biggest question mark as to how it would play out," O'Donnell said. "Ultimately, we wanted cars to run closer together, we wanted a battle to play

out for the lead at times, which we saw during the race. Some things certainly to work on, but ultimately I think it was the direction where we wanted to go."

NASCAR will use a complete version of the rules package in Las Vegas, where featured aero ducts will likely encourage drafting. It could make Las Vegas look a bit like the crash-filled Daytona 500, where pack racing leads to spectacular multi-car accidents that always change the dynamic of a race.

Teams won't have a clear idea for weeks on how to attack this rules package because the next three races are at wildly different venues that present their own challenges. □



Roger Federer of Switzerland returns the ball to Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany during their match at the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championship, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Monday, Feb. 25, 2019.

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Roger Feder-

er's latest attempt to win his 100th ATP singles title made

Federer wins in Dubai to begin latest bid for 100th title

a shaky start at the Dubai Championships where he overcame Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 on Monday.

Federer entered the first-round match with a 13-0 record against the German, and broke in the first game to run through the first set. But Kohlschreiber forced a third set between them for only the third time. In that set, Federer forced an error to break for 2-0 and held, and cruised home.

"(My thinking was to) just somehow get through.

Somehow try not to lose," Federer said. "I'm very pleased I was able to find a way. I actually played a really good third set, I thought."

Federer won his 99th tour title in October in Basel, and his bid for the 100th has ended so far in two semifinals, then the fourth round of the Australian Open.

Next up for him is Fernando Verdasco, the 2017 Dubai runner-up to Andy Murray. Verdasco beat Italian qualifier Thomas Fabbiano 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

The two other seeds in action beside Federer lost.

Nikolaz Basilashvili, the highest-ranked Georgian in ATP history at No. 19, upset fourth-seeded Karen Khachanov of Russia 6-4, 6-1, and Jan-Lennard Struff of Germany spoiled seventh-seeded Milos Raonic's Dubai debut 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.

Basilashvili will play for a spot in the quarterfinals against defending champion Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain, who beat Indian wild card Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-4, 6-3. □

Knicks beat Spurs to end 18-game home losing streak

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — This Broadway smash even made news on Hollywood's big night.

Hey, when the Knicks win a home game, Spike Lee needs to know. Even if he's across the country at the Academy Awards, busy getting his own big victory. So when the Knicks snapped their franchise-record losing streak at Madison Square Garden at 18 games by beating the San Antonio Spurs 130-118 on Sunday night, actor Samuel L. Jackson made the announcement from on stage to Lee. Lee was in the audience on the night he won the award for best adapted screenplay for "BlackKkLansman," but for so long sat courtside when the Knicks used to win home games.

"It's major," guard Dennis Smith Jr. said after his first home victory as a Knick.

"We've been having our fans come out and support every night and haven't won here since Dec. 1. I wasn't part of that one, so I'm glad that we could get it tonight and just give the fans something to see."

Damyean Dotson scored 27 points, and Smith, Kevin Knox and Emmanuel Mudiay all had 19. Smith had 13 assists and Knox had 10 boards, while rookie Mitchell Robinson finished with 15 points, 14 rebounds and five blocked shots.

Coach David Fizdale said the Knicks never talked about their home skid, which began after a victory over Milwaukee.

"They get over it, they get back to work," he said. "And at some point you know the basketball gods will look out for you when you're doing that."

DeMar DeRozan had 32 points and nine rebounds for the Spurs, who fell to 1-6 on their trip that ends Monday night in Brooklyn. LaMarcus Aldridge scored 18 points, but was limited to just 13 minutes through three quarters because of foul trouble.

The Spurs came in as the NBA's best 3-point shooting team but were just 6 for 24 behind the arc, far too poor to make up for a dismal defensive effort that had the Knicks wearing out the rims with slam dunks and shooting 51 percent.

Coach Gregg Popovich



New York Knicks guard Dennis Smith Jr. (5) fends off San Antonio Spurs guard DeMar DeRozan (10) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in New York, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019.

Associated Press

credited his reserves for getting the Spurs back into the game in the second half, but the hole was too big.

"That group gets credit for playing and doing their job the way they should," he said. "Other than that, it was a pathetic performance defensively, but the Knicks had something to do with it." The Spurs were so off early that they didn't even make one of their

baskets. Knox and Smith both went for the rebound of Aldridge's miss with no Spurs around and knocked it into the basket, with Aldridge getting credit for the field goal. The Knicks led by nine at halftime and then started to run the Spurs off the floor in the third quarter. Pushing the pace and getting some easy dunks on lobs, they opened a 90-67 advantage on a 3-pointer by Dotson. The Spurs had

to call three timeouts in the period — two at the same time when they couldn't get the ball in after the first one — and were still down 19 with just over 2 minutes left in the period.

They scored the final eight to cut it to 94-83 entering the fourth, but whenever they seemed to have any momentum, they would throw the ball away, allow an offensive rebound or commit a foul to stall. □

Towns returns to Wolves lineup after harrowing highway crash



In this Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 file photo, Minnesota Timberwolves' Karl-Anthony Towns plays against the Memphis Grizzlies in an NBA basketball game in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

By DAVE CAMPBELL
AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Karl-Anthony Towns was in the passenger seat on his way to meet the Minnesota Timberwolves at the airport when a semitruck slammed

into the back of the vehicle at what he estimated was between 35 and 45 mph. As soon as the medical exam confirmed the injuries were minor, the two-time All-Star center quickly began thinking about whether

he could still join his team in time for the next game. He knew he was fortunate, though, to have escaped the crash at all.

"I'd say I had a 5 percent chance of making it out alive," Towns said Monday before Minnesota's game against Sacramento. He added: "I probably should not have made it out like I did, but I'm glad I did."

As are the Timberwolves, of course, and his family.

"You obviously want to make sure KAT the person is taken care of," coach Ryan Saunders said, confirming that Towns would play against the Kings. "That's definitely put ahead of KAT the basketball player."

Assistant strength and conditioning coach Kurt Joseph was driving Thursday when he had to make a

hard stop on Interstate 35W in Minneapolis to account for an accident in front of them. Towns said he recalled Joseph looking "stone-faced" while remarking that the semitruck he saw in the rearview mirror was not slowing down.

"If I don't have that seatbelt," Towns told reporters, "I'm going right through the windshield."

Towns declined an ambulance ride at the scene. He acknowledged downplaying the doctor's advice upon departure from the hospital to take it easy, immediately contacting the Timberwolves about a commercial itinerary that could get him to New York in time to play Friday against the Knicks. Towns called his sister with the news, opting to send his parents a text mes-

sage to avoid exposure to their anxiety about his condition.

He exhibited some concussion-like symptoms, so per league protocol, Towns was held out of that game and again Saturday at Milwaukee. That ended his streak of 303 consecutive games started, the longest to start an NBA career since 1970-71.

Being present at the arena was ultimately more important to Towns than resting on his own.

"I'm not a guy to stay back to watch them work. I want to be there in person. I want to high-five them coming off the court. I want to scream for them. I want to do everything I possibly can to be the best cheerleader I can possibly be," Towns said. □

Dallas beats Chicago; Mats Zuccarello injured in Stars debut

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Jason Spezza broke a tie on a 5-on-3 power play midway through the third period and the Dallas Stars beat the Chicago Blackhawks 4-3 on Sunday after blowing a three-goal lead.

Spezza took Alexander Radulov's feed across the crease and tapped the puck past goalie Cam Ward.

The victory was overshadowed by the loss of Mats Zuccarello with what he thought was a broken right arm in his first game with Dallas. Acquired from the New York Rangers on Saturday, Zuccarello had a goal and assist, but left after two periods and is expected to be sidelined at least four weeks.

Radulov and Radek Faksa also scored and Anton Khudobin made 44 saves for the Stars, fighting for a wild-card playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Chicago star Patrick Kane was held off the scoresheet, ending his points streak at 20 games. Chris Kunitz, Drake Caggiula and Jonathan Toews tied it for Blackhawks after they fell behind



Dallas Stars center Jason Spezza (90) shoots the winning goal past Chicago Blackhawks goaltender Cam Ward (30) during the third period of an NHL hockey game Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019, in Chicago.

Associated Press

3-0 early in the second period.

COYOTES 4, JETS 1

GLENDAL, Ariz. (AP) — Lawson Crouse scored the go-ahead goal in the second period and Arizona beat Winnipeg after retiring the No. 19 jersey of former captain Shane Doan.

Brad Richardson, Clayton Keller and Josh Archibald also scored for the Coyotes. Alex Goligoski added two assists and Darcy Kuemper stopped 34 shots, sending the Central Division leaders to their fourth loss in five games.

The Coyotes kept pace in

the Western Conference playoff race, winning their third straight game and fourth in five. They are three points behind Minnesota for the second wild card.

Patrik Laine scored early before Winnipeg was shut out for almost 58 minutes. Laurent Brossoit made 20

saves.

A sellout crowd was on hand to see Doan's No. 19 raised to the rafters at Gila River Arena before a game that matched the two teams he played for during his 21 seasons in the NHL.

CAPITALS 6, RANGERS 5, OT WASHINGTON (AP) — Evgeny Kuznetsov scored at 4:20 of overtime, just beating teammate Alex Ovechkin to the puck, and Washington beat New York in its return from its longest road trip this season.

Nicklas Backstrom scored his 14th and 15th goals of the season and the second-place Capitals moved within two points of the Metropolitan Division-leading New York Islanders.

Tom Wilson added his 17th goal, and Nic Dowd and Michal Kempny also scored for Washington.

Rangers defenseman Brady Skjei scored multiple goals for the first time in his career, his second tying the game with 31 seconds remaining in regulation. Chris Kreider added his 26th, Jimmy Vesey contributed his 15th, and Vladislav Namestnikov also scored for New York. □

Blue Jackets keep adding, not subtracting, at trade deadline



New Jersey Devils goaltender Keith Kinkaid (1) makes a save in the second period of an NHL hockey game against the St. Louis Blues, Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

By **JOHN WAWROW**
AP Hockey Writer

The Columbus Blue Jackets showed they are all in for this season by continuing to add talent at the NHL trade deadline.

The Central Division-leading Winnipeg Jets tried to give themselves a late-

season boost by acquiring center Kevin Hayes from the New York Rangers on Monday, while the Colorado Avalanche picked up forward Derick Brassard from Florida.

All three teams were busy, but more trades were expected to be announced

later Monday. Among the players who were expected to move were Ottawa's Mark Stone and Philadelphia's Wayne Simmonds.

The Blue Jackets grabbed the day's early headlines by acquiring defenseman Adam McQuaid from the New York Rangers and goalie Keith Kinkaid from New Jersey. General manager Jarmo Kekalainen actually went to work last week by acquiring Ottawa forwards Ryan Dzingel and Matt Duchene in separate deals.

"I think Jarmo — and that's what I love about him — I think he's got some jam. He wants to win," coach John Tortorella said. "He's letting the team know, and the team has heard it loud and clear, that he's worked hard to upgrade our roster." The Blue Jackets altered initial expectations in being

buyers rather than sellers at the deadline. Aside from their additions, the Blue Jackets retained forward Artemi Panarin and goalie Sergei Bobrovsky, two players eligible to become unrestricted free agents this summer.

The additions come at a time the Blue Jackets have won seven of 10 and jumped into third place of the Metropolitan Division standings, a point ahead of Pittsburgh, which is currently out of the playoff picture. The Jets acquired Hayes by sending forward Brendan Lemieux and a first-round pick to the retooling Rangers. Hayes has topped 40 points in four of his five NHL seasons, and is initially projected to take over the second-line center spot alongside Patrik Laine.

"It's obviously tough to leave New York, but I'm

excited to join the Jets," Hayes said. "I mean, everybody knows how good they are and the type of players they have on their team."

With 78 points, Winnipeg has a one-point edge on second-place Nashville in the Central Division, and attempting to shake off a slump in which the Jets have gone 3-5-2 in their past 10.

The Avalanche acquired Brassard in a bid to keep pace in a tightly packed group of teams competing for the West's two wild-card spots. Colorado began the day in ninth place with 65 points, one point behind Minnesota and two back of Dallas.

Brassard is a 12-year-veteran who is switching teams for the second time in three weeks after being dealt to Florida by Pittsburgh. □



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All eyes on Kikuchi during his spring debut for Mariners

By TIM BOOTH
AP Sports Writer

PEORIA, Ariz. (AP) — Yu-sei Kikuchi felt the nerves Monday that would normally accompany taking the mound in front of tens of thousands of fans in a major ballpark, not the few thousand who showed up for a spring training game in the desert.

"I've been pitching in Japan for the last nine years and I wanted to test what I was doing in Japan against major league hitters and I wanted to see how they reacted," Kikuchi said through an interpreter. "So I was really kind of excited and also nervous about that."

Kikuchi made his debut for the Seattle Mariners throwing two innings against the Cincinnati Reds in a start that featured a little bit of everything, from moments of dominance to Kikuchi working out of a jam.

The Mariners were pleased with what they saw.

"He had a little nerves, no doubt about it, but fastball was really good, he was up to 95 (mph), the breaking pitches we know are outstanding. Thought he handled it really, really well," Seattle manager Scott Servais said. "He's going to take a little time to get his routine. You saw him throwing outside the dugout before, there's a few adjustments there, but really happy for him getting that first outing under his belt."

Kikuchi's most notable at-bat was his lone strikeout, when he tied up Joey Votto on a deceptive 2-2 curveball that left the veteran slugger waving unsuc-

cessfully. While Kikuchi has a fastball in the mid-90s, his breaking pitches and the ability to hide the ball in his windup add to the challenges of facing the lefty.

"It's spring training and I'm sure he's tuning up his swing as well but to strike out someone the caliber of Joey Votto, a hitter of that caliber, I'm really happy about the result of today," Kikuchi said.

The rest of the outing forced Kikuchi to do a little bit of everything. He had to scamper off the mound to cover first base on a groundout by Yasiel Puig. He faced the challenge of traffic on the bases after a rough second inning that featured a leadoff walk, two errors and giving up two runs — although both were unearned.

Kikuchi threw 29 pitches with 19 strikes, the first step in a transitional season.

"Obviously, when you're up on the mound you want to shut them down one, two, three when you're up there but after I let some guys on today I think I was able to keep my pitch count low and get some double play balls so I'm happy with what I did," Kikuchi said.

One of the biggest adjustments will be Kikuchi's pregame routine. Servais noted Kikuchi was on the field nearly an hour before first pitch and still figuring out the timing led to Kikuchi playing catch in front of the dugout several minutes before the team took the field.

"What we wanted to do is let him go through his normal routine," Servais said. "He was out here prob-



Seattle Mariners' Yusei Kikuchi during the second inning of a spring training baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds, Monday, Feb. 25, 2019, in Peoria, Ariz.

Associated Press

ably 50, 55 minutes before the game started. That's what he normally does and over time, that's why we've got the four, five outings through spring to tighten up that routine and as the season goes on it will be a learning curve for him as well."

The first outing for Kikuchi was documented from all angles by Asian photog-

raphers following his every move, from his warmup in the bullpen to the scrum after his outing with dozens of reporters.

Seattle wants to limit Kikuchi's innings during the regular season and make the first-year transition from pitching in Japan less arduous. But the Mariners also need to build up Kikuchi so he is ready to take on a

starter's load when his innings won't be limited.

Kikuchi said he hadn't been told what comes next, but he's likely to get his second start sometime this weekend.

"It's my first start and I felt really good throwing the ball. Going into the game I was a little nervous, obviously, but it ended up well," Kikuchi said. □

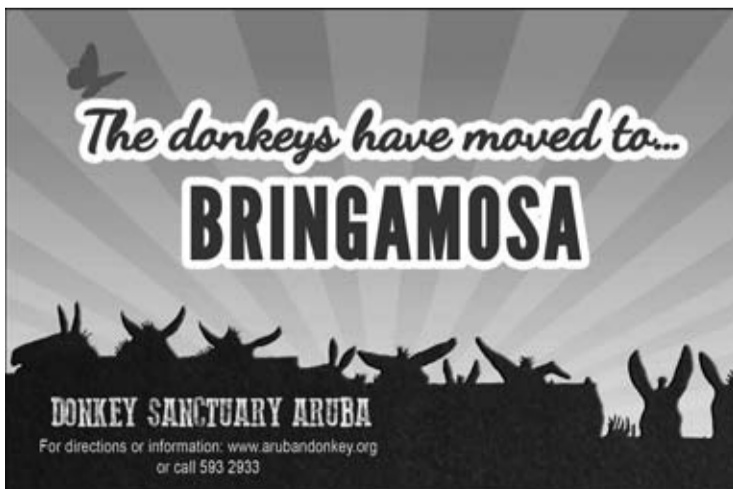


Germany's Francesco Friedrich, Candy Bauer, Martin Grothkopp and Thorsten Margis celebrate their first-place finish in the four-man World Cup bobsled event in Calgary, Alberta, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019.

Friedrich takes four-man World Cup bobsled title

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Francesco Friedrich and Germany came up with a fitting end to the World Cup bobsled season. Friedrich clinched the four-man season championship, adding that to his two-man title won earlier in the weekend, and led a German sweep on the 1988 Olympic track Sunday. Nico Walther drove to the silver and Johannes Lochner won the bronze. Friedrich finished the four-man season standings with 1,727 points. Latvia's Oskars Kibermanis was second with 1,616 points and Lochner took third with 1,605. Out of the 16 two- and four-man bobsled races on the

World Cup circuit this season, Friedrich won 15 medals — 13 golds, one silver and one bronze. Counting women's bobsled as well, Germany won 21 of 24 World Cup races this season and claimed 44 of the possible 72 medals overall. Geoffrey Gadbois and Hunter Church had the two U.S. sleds in the field Sunday, finishing 17th and 18th respectively. Codie Bascue finished the season as the top U.S. driver in the four-man standings, placing 16th. The bobsled and skeleton circuits now head to Whistler, British Columbia for the world championships that will be held over the next two weekends. □



In this file photo dated Sunday, Sept. 9, 2018, Caster Semenya of South Africa crosses the finish line to win the women's 800 meters for Africa, at the IAAF track and field Continental Cup in Ostrava, Czech Republic.

CASTER SEMENYA

Continued from Page 17

But it would involve chemically hobbling some athletes, or persuading them to step aside.

Women like Caster Semenya, the two-time Olympic champion over 800 meters who is standing up to the IAAF at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

The IAAF rules target women with rare intersex conditions, also called differences of sex development (DSD), which give them uncommonly high levels of naturally occurring testosterone. Testosterone's strength-building properties were at the center of the debate at the CAS this week.

If the IAAF wins, Semenya and other women would face a dilemma: Agree to blunt their natural strengths or give up a world-class running career in all international events from 400 meters to a mile.

Our way, the highway, or race against men.

The IAAF says the solution for DSD athletes who exceed its proposed testosterone limit — applicable only in women's events, by the way — could be as simple as a daily pill.

"The treatment to reduce testosterone levels is a hormone supplement similar to the contraceptive pill taken by millions of women around the world. No athlete will be forced to undergo surgery," the IAAF's

health and science director, Stephane Bermon, assured when the governing body published the latest iteration of its testosterone rules for DSD athletes last April.

Yet a big difference is that these women wouldn't be freely medicating to avoid pregnancy, but because they otherwise wouldn't be allowed to run in the affected events, which include Semenya's signature 800-meter race, at the Olympics, world championships and Diamond League events.

And the IAAF process wasn't so simple for a coach who worked with an affected athlete who competed at the Rio Olympics. The coach discussed her ordeal in detail at the time with The Associated Press, on condition they both not be identified to preserve her privacy. The coach's account and IAAF correspondence on the case obtained by the AP lifted the veil on the difficult decisions that would still be shrouded in secrecy, ostensibly for reasons of athlete privacy, under the IAAF's since revised rules.

The woman's coach said the treatment prescribed to her for what the IAAF described as "abnormally high" testosterone levels caused weight-gain and side effects, including making her smell "awful," sweaty and dirty, even though she stayed clean and wore de-

odorant and perfume.

But her desire to compete was overwhelming.

"She said, 'Since I love this sport, I'll take the medicine,'" the coach said.

He said the process was months-long and involved trips to foreign clinics for tests. He also said he helped talk her out of irreversible surgery that was offered as an alternative, telling her: "We can't take this risk; cut things off that God gave you."

All this just to run.

In what smacks of fear-mongering, the IAAF paints a doomsday picture of women's elite middle-distance running collapsing without its proposed rules, saying: "We risk losing the next generation of female athletes, since they will see no path to success in our sport."

But where's the solid evidence? In Semenya's native South Africa and around the world, many fans see her as a heroine. How many more women would be impacted if the rules are upheld isn't clear. According to a previous CAS ruling there were more than 30 such cases under the previous IAAF regulations that the court suspended in 2015, following a challenge from Indian runner Dutee Chand.

The court did so because it wasn't convinced that testosterone gives DSD women a significant performance boost. □

Innovations allow NHL to stage outdoor games almost anywhere

By STEPHEN WHYNO

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Dan Craig sleeps maybe four hours a night leading up to outdoor games. He only goes out to dinner because he can check the status of the ice on his phone.

"Your mind's always going," said Craig, the NHL's vice president of facilities operations.

After staging outdoor games in a deep freeze (Edmonton) and summer-like warmth (Los Angeles), the NHL seems capable of taking hockey outside just about anywhere in the U.S. and Canada knowing the ice will be almost as good as the sheets found inside. When the Flyers host the Penguins on Saturday night, it will be the 27th NHL outdoor game since 2003. Next season's Winter Classic is at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, where the average high on Jan. 1 is 56 degrees (13.3 Celsius).

No worries, hockey fans.

"We put the parameters out there as into what we feel the challenges are going to be at a certain climate in a certain area and this is what we're going to run up against," said Craig, who has worked all but two outdoor games. "And if we have to go to get different equipment, we go get different equipment. If we need more staff, we just go get more qualified people to come in and give us a hand to make sure that everything works the way it's supposed to."

Weather is the biggest hurdle that can't be controlled. It is instead managed by Craig, his son Mike, senior facilities operations manager Derek King and the 100-person crews that work each game. As he sat on the boards Thursday at Lincoln Financial Field, Craig pointed to the sky and acknowledged the swirling wind was on his mind.

Still, improved technology and techniques learned over the past 15 years have helped perfect the science and execution of making and maintaining outdoor ice.

"It seems like they've



An insulated tarp covers the ice ahead of the NHL Winter Classic hockey game between the Pittsburgh Penguins and Philadelphia Flyers, in Philadelphia, Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019.

Associated Press

streamlined the process so they know how to react and how to handle different elements," said Flyers winger James van Riemsdyk, a veteran of five outdoor games. "For the last few that I've been in, it's all been pretty good. ... If you can start with that, that leads to a better product in the game."

It starts with a 53-foot refrigeration truck that feeds coolant into aluminum trays set up on the field, and while indoor facilities have ice typically an inch or so deep, outdoor rinks go beyond 2 inches to protect the surface from the elements. Smaller Zambonis have less impact on the ice, and covering the surface with heat-reflecting insulation tarps helps. The ice can be monitored with sensors that provide real-time readings to a smartphone app.

The ideal ice temperature is 22 degrees (-5.5 Celsius), but all was fine in Denver in 2016 when the air temperature was 65 (18.3 Celsius) because officials can just turn the A/C up.

"When we're monitoring the air temperature we'll just make the sheet colder," King said. "If we can keep it in the in the mid-40s, it would be great. But we've got a lot of control. ... We have a lot of control of the truck, so we can manipulate our temperatures on

the sheet with the air temperature."

Craig remembers the 2014 Winter Classic at Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor: The snow shoveling started at 5 a.m. and never really stopped. The sun has been just as big an impediment — it delayed the 2012 Winter Classic in Philadelphia because the glare was considered a danger to players. The ice at the 2011 Heritage Classic in Calgary had to be covered because it was so cold there were worries the surface would crack, the most concerned Craig has ever been.

The tarps with air bubbles inside became a mainstay beginning in 2014 at Dodger Stadium to combat the Southern California sun as temperatures soared to almost 80 (26.7 Celsius) in the days before the game.

"Sun was a huge issue for us in just the temperature on the ice, so we kind of came up with a system of how to cover the ice and reflect that sun," King said. "We still use those same ideas anywhere we go."

The Dodger Stadium experience showed the NHL's ice crew it could adapt to just about any situation. Previous weather dilemmas also taught Craig and his staff they couldn't just leave snow on the ice like so many nature-made rinks in cold climates, which paid

dividends this week in Philadelphia when snow turned to sleet and then rain.

"Everybody's looking at us like, 'Why don't you just leave the snow?' Well, it's going to cause us 18 hours of work if we don't get the snow off, like, right now," Craig said. "(If) it happened to rain, the top is going to freeze and then the bottom is going to be nice and soft. Well, no. Where we were, it just goes all the way

through and then it freezes to the bottom. Those are the types of things that we have learned over time: how to manage the different circumstances that were put into."

There are three more outdoor games next season — in Regina, Saskatchewan, Dallas and the Air Force Academy in Colorado — and trips to Nashville and maybe even Las Vegas could be coming someday.

Craig doesn't see any challenge as too daunting and he is focused on giving players an unforgettable experience.

"They step out there for the first time and they do about three laps around and the grins and their eyes are just phenomenal," he said. "They've always been in organized hockey, they've always been indoors, they've always traveled and all of a sudden they get their chance. That's when you see the guys and you just see them, they're beaming because this the first time, they're getting paid for it, they're playing a game that they love and they're playing it outdoors where we started." □

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China's Huawei unveils 5G phone with folding screen

By KELVIN CHAN

AP Business Reporter

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) —

China's Huawei unveiled a new folding-screen phone on Sunday, joining the latest trend for bendable devices as it challenges the global smartphone market's dominant players, Apple and Samsung.

Huawei revealed its Mate X phone on the eve of MWC Barcelona, a four-day showcase of mobile devices, as the company battles U.S. allegations it is a cybersecurity risk.

The device can be used on superfast next-generation mobile networks that are due to come online in the coming years.

Device makers are looking to folding screens as the industry's next big thing to help them break out of an innovation malaise, although most analysts think the market is limited, at least in the early days.

The Mate X is the answer to a question Huawei faced as it sought to satisfy smartphone users' demands for bigger screens and longer battery life, said Richard Yu, CEO of its consumer business group.

"How can we bring the more big innovation to this smartphone industry?"



Huawei CEO Richard Yu displays the new Huawei Mate X foldable 5G smartphone at the Mobile World Congress, in Barcelona, Spain, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019.

Associated Press

ny could facilitate digital espionage on behalf of China's government. Washington has been lobbying European allies to keep its equipment out of new 5G networks.

The cloud over Huawei also includes U.S. criminal charges filed last month against the company and its chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, who U.S. prosecutors want to extradite from Canada. They accuse her of fraud and say the company stole trade secrets, including technology that mobile carrier T-Mobile used to test smartphones.

Huawei is making its push at a time that both Samsung and Apple are struggling with declining smartphone sales amid a lull in industry innovation that is causing more consumers to hold on to the devices until they wear out instead of upgrading to the latest model as quickly as they once did. The company sells high-priced smartphones as well as an extensive range of cheaper models priced from \$200 to \$600 that offer a good camera and other features most consumers want, analysts said.

But Huawei wouldn't be where it is today if it had been content focusing merely on China and other Asian markets.

The company took a huge step forward several years ago when it began pouring millions into promoting its brand and building partnerships in major European markets such as Germany, France, Britain, Spain and Italy. Research firm Gartner estimates it now sells about 13 percent of its phones in Europe.

As for the U.S., Huawei can only make so much headway as long as the government is casting the company as a cyber-villain, said Gartner analyst Tuong Nguyen.

"Brand building is a long-term exercise, but it's going to be especially difficult in the U.S. because of the way they have branded all of China," he said. "The barriers in the U.S. are just getting more difficult." □

Tech helps San Francisco DA wipe out 8,000 pot convictions

By PAUL ELIAS

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

San Francisco's top prosecutor says his office used technology to erase 8,000 marijuana convictions and reduce felony convictions to misdemeanors. It is the first California prosecutor's office to announce full compliance in clearing criminal records required when voters approved the broad legalization of pot.

District Attorney George Gascon made the announcement Monday, saying the nonprofit Code for America organization

used computer-based algorithms to identify eligible cases.

Proposition 64 wiped out convictions but provided no mechanism for how to identify cases.

Many county prosecutors say they don't have the resources to sift through tens of thousands of cases. Some defendants hired attorneys, but most of the estimated 200,000 California cases remain untouched.

Code for America says it is using its technology to help other prosecutors and is working with other prosecutors. □

Yu said at a glitzy media launch.

The Mate X will sell for 2,299 euros (\$2,600) when it goes on sale by midyear. That's even more than Samsung's recently revealed Galaxy Fold, priced at nearly \$2,000.

The Mate X's screen wraps around the outside so users can still view it when it's closed, unlike the Galaxy Fold, which has a screen that folds shut. Unfolded, the Mate X's screen is 8 inches diagonally, making it the size of a small tablet.

Yu said Huawei engineers spent three years working on the device's hinge, which doesn't leave a gap when shut.

"No matter how innovative and technology-advanced the new device is, it will take a lot more time for a critical mass of consumers to experience the benefits of foldable phones and 5G technology," Forrester analyst Thomas Husson said. Huawei still "has to find its own brand voice to differentiate from Samsung and Apple and stop acting as a technology challenger."

Huawei Technologies is trying to raise its profile in the fiercely competitive smartphone market. Almost everyone with a smartphone has heard of Apple and

Samsung, the top device makers, and Google, the power behind Android's pervasive software.

Huawei, a Chinese company with a name many people in the West don't know how to pronounce (it's "HWA-way"), wants to join the market's upper echelon.

It's getting close. Samsung was the No. 1 smartphone seller for all of last year, followed by Apple, according to research firm International Data Corp. Huawei came third, though in some quarters it took second place, IDC data showed.

The company stealthily became an industry star by plowing into new markets, honing its technology, and developing a line-up of phones that offer affordable options for low-income households and luxury models that are siphoning upper-crust sales from Apple and Samsung in China and Europe.

But Huawei's products are few and far between in the U.S. The scarcity stems from long-running security concerns that the compa-

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US stocks rise broadly after Trump postpones tariff increase

By DAMIAN J. TROISE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks opened broadly higher on Wall Street after President Donald Trump agreed to hold off on raising tariffs on Chinese goods, which would have escalated a damaging trade war between the world's two largest economies.

Investors had been growing increasingly optimistic over the last two weeks that the U.S. and China were moving closer to a resolution in the trade tiff. The fight is over U.S. complaints that Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology.

Information technology and industrial companies led the early gains. Consumer goods and utility companies lagged the overall market.

The nations faced a March 1 deadline that would have increased punitive duties on \$200 billion in Chinese imports. Trump did not set a new deadline. He said there had been "productive talks" on some of the more difficult issues and he's willing to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping if negotiations progress.

The trade war and its hefty tariffs have already raised prices and costs for businesses and consumers. Any additional escalation could shake investor confidence as an economic slowdown looms over China and Europe.



In this Feb. 8, 2019, file photo trader Daniel Trimble works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

Elsewhere, oil prices dipped after Trump said they were getting too high. Industrial giant General Electric rose after it announced plans to sell a biotech unit. Spark Therapeutics doubled after pharmaceutical giant Roche offered to buy the gene therapy developer.

KEEPING SCORE: The Dow Jones Industrial average

rose 164 points, or 0.6 percent, to 26,193 as of 10 a.m. Eastern time. The S&P 500 index 0.6 percent and the Nasdaq composite 0.9 percent.

OVERSEAS: China's main index, The Shanghai Composite, jumped to an eight-month high. Progress with U.S.-China trade talks helped lift markets broadly

in Asia and Europe.

GE SHEDS WEIGHT: General Electric is selling its biopharma business to Danaher for \$21.4 billion. The sale is yet another step for GE to become smaller. The stock surged 12.7 percent.

GE has been divesting businesses since getting hurt in the financial crisis a decade ago. It slashed its divi-

dend in October along with ousting CEO John Flannery. It also plans to downsize its Boston headquarters.

GOLD FIGHT: Barrick Gold is making a potentially hostile bid for rival Newmont Mining, offering \$18 billion in an all-stock deal. The offer pushed Newmont shares 2 percent higher.

Barrick kicked off a surge in gold mining consolidation last month when it acquired Randgold Resources for more than \$6 billion. Miners are consolidating as gold becomes more expensive to procure.

Newmont has so far shunned Barrick. It has launched its own takeover bid, offering \$10 billion for Canada's Goldcorp.

ENERGY: Trump criticized the rising price of oil in an early morning tweet, sending prices lower. U.S. crude lost 1.6 percent to \$56.34 per barrel in New York. Prices are up 23 percent so far this year.

Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 1.8 percent to \$65.92 per barrel in London. □

Eagle Resort & Casino

wk 5,6 /3 Br, 2 Bth F Reno, S
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FOR SALE by Owner

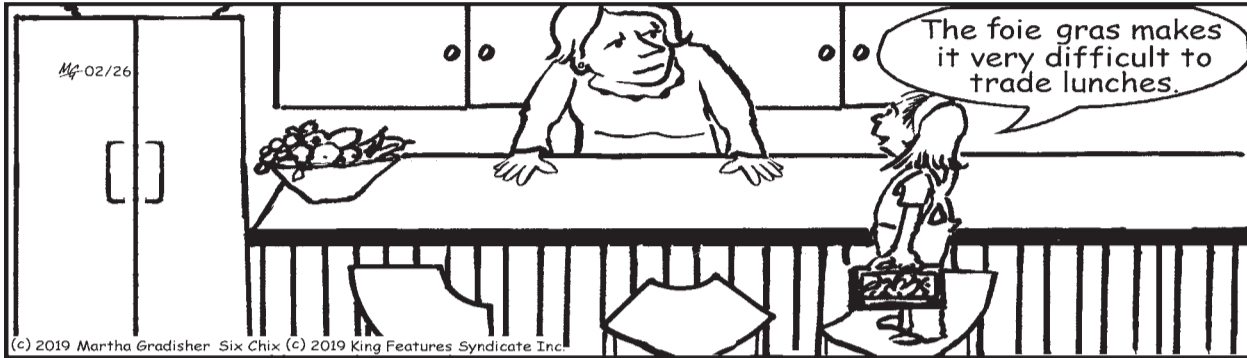
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week 6
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210839

Mutts



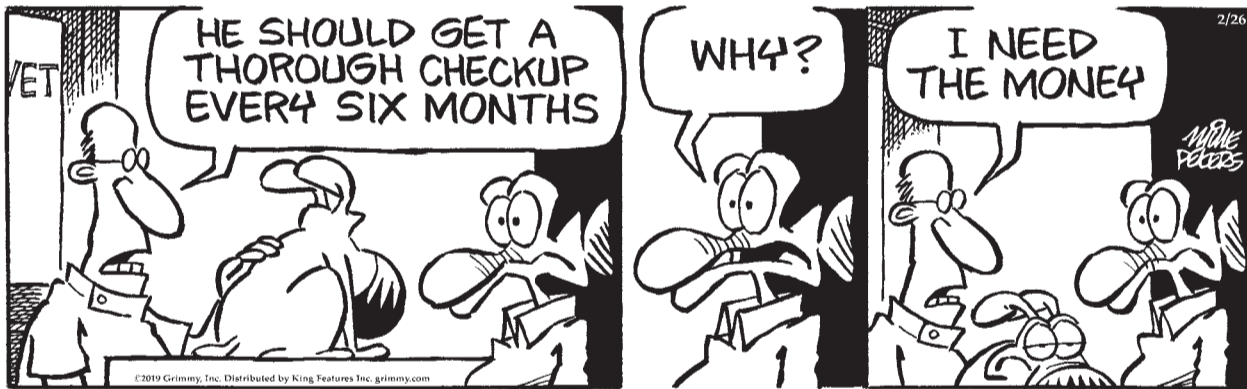
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

8			7				6
			3		4		
	9			2	6		
		2	6		9		3
1	9					2	4
	6		5		2	7	
			7	8			2
	7			5			
4				6			1

Difficulty Level ★★

2/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

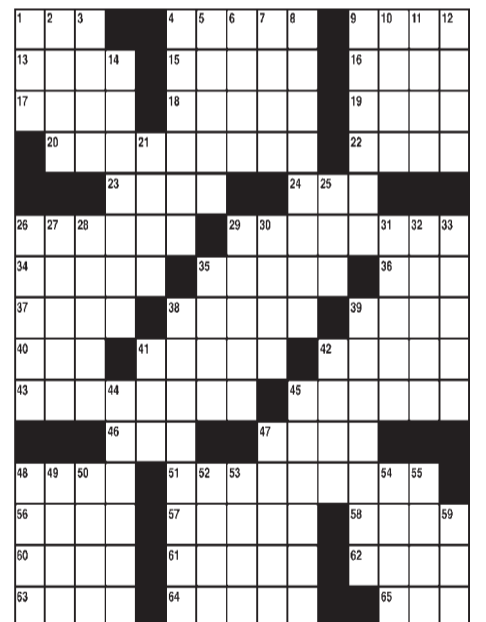
1	8	3	2	4	6	9	7	5
5	6	2	7	1	9	4	8	3
7	9	4	3	5	8	2	6	1
8	2	6	4	7	5	3	1	9
3	5	9	1	6	2	8	4	7
4	1	7	9	8	3	6	5	2
9	7	1	6	3	4	5	2	8
6	3	5	8	2	1	7	9	4
2	4	8	5	9	7	1	3	6

ACROSS

- Occupation
- Throbbled painfully
- Up in ___; irate
- Regrets
- Transparent
- Ooze out
- Part of a wineglass
- Rib
- Scorch
- Forte
- Friendly nation
- Plunder
- J. Edgar Hoover's agcy.
- 1950s teen idol Frankie
- Clear broth
- Book leaves
- Damp
- Lamb's mother
- Elderly
- Cries
- Window glass
- Gallop
- Bodies of water
- Didn't throw away
- Restrained with a rope
- Foyt & Unser
- Ending for harp or ball
- Kimono fabric
- Casual farewell
- Helper
- _-the-top; outrageous
- Part of the face
- In just a ___; soon
- Take ___; undo
- Obscure; unclear
- Insurance seller
- Curtisied
- Picasso's paints
- Go away
- Proprietor
- Has to have
- ___ hay while the sun shines"
- Tiny sea creature with a hard shell
- Parcel

DOWN

- Yrbk. section
- Pitcher's delights
- Toot the horn



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/26/19

Monday's Puzzle Solved

O	N	A		S	P	U	D	S		S	L	O	W	
S	P	E	D		H	A	N	O	I		H	O	M	E
K	E	G	S		U	N	I	M	P	R	O	V	E	D
I	N	A		S	T	E	V	E		O	V	E	N	S
		T	A	L	U	S				C	U	E		
S	L	I	P	U	P			L	O	S	S	E	S	
L	E	V	E	R		P	E	A	C	E		N	U	T
A	V	I	D		P	L	A	Z	A		S	T	I	R
Y	E	S		G	L	O	R	Y		V	E	R	N	E
	E	M	P	L	O	Y			R	E	N	E	G	E
			R	O	T			P	A	N	D	A		
C	A	R	O	B		F	L	U	I	D		T	A	P
A	B	O	V	E		B	O	A	R	D		S	I	G
B	L	U	E		A	R	I	S	E		H	E	E	D
S	E	T	S		A	D	D	E	R		E	S	S	

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2/26/19

- Zodiac sign
- Table seasoning
- Stockpiles
- Took a chance with
- Prolonged attack
- Commotion
- Enthusiastic
- ___ off; angry
- Have nothing to do with
- ___-off; going-away party
- "Cool" in past decades
- ___ on; attach
- Letter from Greece

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Aruba Divi Phoenix

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Building 9 the 7th floor
27 weeks remain \$25K each
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dollars

Divi Links Golf

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26 weeks remain each
\$9000 each
Studio Wk 11
26 weeks remain \$8000

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3 bedroom , 2 bath \$ 325K

Aruba Divi Phoenix

1 BR WK # 11
Building 7 3rd floor
34 weeks remain \$16K

Marriott Surf Club

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2 BR Ocean View \$ 15,000
2 BR Ocean Side \$16,000
2 BR Ocean Front \$ 27,000
3 BR Ocean View \$26,000

La Cabana Beach & Casino

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4th floor pool/Ocean view
Sunday check in \$ 18, 000 both
Divi Village
Studio WK # 6
22 weeks remain \$8000

Renaissance Suites

1 BR WK # 9 \$9500
4th Floor Harbor/Ocean View
Aruba Divi Phoenix
Studio wk # 9
building 6
5th floor \$9000
30 weeks remain

Aruba Divi Phoenix

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6th floor 28 weeks remain \$16K

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3BEDRM \$12500

PLATINUM Season

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*WK. 51 OV \$39k
*WK 52 OV \$46k
* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

GOLD Season

2B Oceanfront \$14k
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Virgin Galactic: Rocket reaches space again in test flight

By JOHN ANTCHAK

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Virgin Galactic's rocket plane reached space for a second time in a test flight over California on Friday, climbing higher and faster than before while also carrying a crewmember to evaluate the long-awaited passenger experience.

The winged spaceship soared at three times the speed of sound to an altitude of 55.8 miles (89.8 kilometers) before gliding to a safe landing at Mojave Air and Space Port in the desert north of Los Angeles, Virgin Galactic said.

In addition to chief pilot David Mackay and co-pilot Mike "Sooch" Masucci, the crew included Virgin Galactic's chief astronaut instructor, Beth Moses.

Moses, described as an expert micro-gravity researcher who is in charge of evaluating the passenger cabin, floated free to test elements of the interior. Virgin Galactic is working



Virgin Galactic's VSS Unity rocket plane flown into the atmosphere before launching Friday, Feb. 22, 2019, in Mojave, Calif. Virgin Galactic's VSS Unity rocket plane flown into the atmosphere before launching Friday, Feb. 22, 2019, in Mojave, Calif.

Associated Press

toward commercial operations that will take passengers on supersonic thrill rides to the lower reaches of space to experience a few minutes of weight-

lessness and a view of the Earth below.

The company intends to operate a fleet of spaceships out of Spaceport America in the high desert

of southern New Mexico.

The flight was delayed two days due to winds, and company founder Richard Branson tweeted that he had to miss it so he could attend a concert in Colombia to raise money for humanitarian aid to crisis-stricken Venezuela.

"Sad to miss spaceflight but looking forward to the concert," he wrote.

The spaceship, named VSS Unity, is carried aloft by a special carrier aircraft and released at high altitude where it ignites its rocket. It first reached space on Dec. 13 in a flight to an altitude of 51.4 miles (82.7 kilometers) at slightly less than Mach 3.

Earlier this month, the rocket motor from that flight was donated to the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., and pilots Mark "Forger" Stucky and Rick "CJ" Sturckow were awarded commercial astronaut wings by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The only previous commercial astronaut wings went to pilots Mike Melvill and Brian Binnie, for their 2004 flights in SpaceShipOne, the predecessor to Virgin Galactic's rocket plane, which is a design called SpaceShipTwo.

A major goal of Friday's

flight was evaluating its handling during descent with its twin tails rotated upward relative to the fuselage.

The "feathered" configuration is used to slow and stabilize the craft as it falls back into the thickening atmosphere. The name came from designer Burt Rutan comparing the mechanism to the feathers of a badminton shuttlecock. The tails rotate back to normal position for the glide to Earth.

Altitude and speed were not specific targets for the flight, Virgin Galactic CEO George Whitesides said in an interview earlier this week.

"If we have sort of a nominal-duration burn we will get up pretty high, but that is not one of the formal test goals for this one," he said.

Whitesides indicated that cabin esthetics, including coloration and the play of sunlight across surfaces, are considered important and that the focus on it also shows the program is advancing.

"That's not to say that we are fully done with vehicle testing, but we really are starting to move into the interiors testing phase, and that's a really important milestone for the company," he said.

Whitesides said he could not say how many more test flights remain.

"We're getting there, I mean we're making good progress, and I don't think it's a huge remaining number now. There's light at the end of the tunnel now," he said.

Branson has said he would like to make his first flight to space this summer on the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing.

"I think he'd love to fly as soon as possible, and we'd love to figure out ways to enable that to happen," he said.

But Whitesides could not commit to a date.

Like the December flight, VSS Unity again carried a payload of various experiments organized under a NASA program.

Scientists measure thickness of Kilauea lava flows in Hawaii

HILO, Hawaii (AP) — Scientists measuring the thickness of Kilauea volcano's newest lava flows have said molten rock added as much as 180 feet (55 meters) of lava to parts of the Big Island last year. New land created in the ocean reaches as high as 919 feet (280 meters).

The U.S. Geological Survey released the data last week along with a preliminary map of the flows, the Hawaii Tribune-Herald reported.

The volcano's latest erup-

tion began last May in a residential area called Leilani Estates in Puna. It destroyed more than 700 homes before lava flows started petering out in August.

The lava buried nearly 14 square miles (36 square kilometers) of existing land. It added about 875 acres (354 hectares) of new land to the island where molten rock flowed offshore.

Much of the new data was collected by unmanned aerial vehicles and helicopters when the lava was

flowing last summer, said Janet Babb, a geologist with the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory.

Scientists had to collect some data later because some spots were too remote for drones to reach or too dangerously infested with so-called laze plumes for helicopters to fly to. Laze forms when hot lava hits the ocean, reacts with sea water and sends hydrochloric acid and steam laced with fine glass particles into the air.

The U.S. Geological Survey is still examining the entire flow field and refining measurements done over the summer, Babb said.

"We'll be studying this eruption for years," she said. "There (are) a lot of studies still going on."

Babb said scientists hope to have a final lava thickness map completed in the next year. □



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Dolce&Gabbana make encyclopedic review of artisanal heritage

By COLLEEN BARRY

Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Milan Mayor Giuseppe Sala made a rare fashion week appearance, sitting in the front row of Dolce & Gabbana on Sunday.

The mayor's presence had the hallmark of an institutional show of support after the designers were forced to cancel a Shanghai show following comments by one of the designers deemed as racist.

The stalwart Milanese brand also faced a boycott in China, the luxury world's biggest market, and the longer term impact of the incident remains unclear. This was their first womenswear show since the controversy, which was followed by another incident involving Milan colleagues Prada and Gucci for including images that recalled blackface in their collections.

Highlights from Sunday's previews for next fall and winter:

DOLCE & GABBANA PARADE ELEGANCE

Dolce & Gabbana gave the fashion world an encyclopedic review of their artisanal credentials with an expansive show of more



A model wears a creation as part of the Dolce & Gabbana women's Fall-Winter 2019-2020 collection, that was presented in Milan, Italy, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019.

Associated Press

than 100 looks.

The seven-in-one runway show flipped through a series of well-catalogued Dolce & Gabbana themes. Designers Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana started with elegant suits topped with fedora hats or elaborate feathered fascinators worthy of a female Dasheill Hammett character then transitioned to chiffon and silk dresses or pantsuits with feather boa trim

that exuded leisure.

The next five themes focused on patterns, textiles and color: leopard, florals, houndstooth and Prince of Wales, jewel tones then brocades. The designers, unusually, then highlighted a series of frothy bridal gowns. And the final flourish was reserved for the brand's true mainstay: beautifully tailored looks in black. The looks played on classic, even stereotypical,

roles of femininity, which remains at the heart of Dolce & Gabbana's appeal with its core consumer.

Highlights included a royal purple A-line coat with cape and bow details that popped with layers of turquoise crinoline, an all-white fitted double-breasted suit topped with a soft cashmere overcoat, a modern take on the suit deconstructed into an off-shoulder look and a black-

and-white polka dot dress made voluminous by underlays worn by an Asian model. Applause emitting from a VIP front row punctuated the show.

The show titled "Elegance" opened with a video showing Dolce draping fabric on a model and hand stitching a garment that, when finished, was branded with the duo's script in Italian "Fatto a mano," or "Made by hand."

STELLA JEAN

Haitian-Italian designer Stella Jean's collection for next fall and winter took a dramatic turn with a sleeker silhouette and more urban styling.

Jean said that her "bourgeois lady" is taking an updated version of a 17th-century European tour, and instead of cultural capitals, she is visiting places usually considered beach destinations — but which instead have a rich artistic tradition. By that, she referred to the naive art of French Polynesia, Haiti and the Caribbean in general.

A gray, brick and camel plaid belted trench gave expression to Jean's old continent influence and European styling. □

Holocaust scholar surveys rising tide of anti-Semitism

By ANN LEVIN

Associated Press

"Antisemitism: Here and Now" (Schocken Books), by Deborah E. Lipstadt

Deborah E. Lipstadt was surprised at how hard it was to write her latest book. A leading authority on the Holocaust, she was used to "skulking in the sewers of antisemitism and genocide." But that was history. What made her latest work so challenging — documenting the recent resurgence of anti-Semitism in Europe and America, on the right and the left — was that it was happening now. The end result was well worth it.

"Antisemitism: Here and Now" is an indispensable guide to contextualizing activities as diverse as the

neo-Nazi march in Charlottesville, Virginia, and the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions campaign, also known as BDS.

And it's about as even-handed as it could be, given the disturbing subject matter and the fact that Lipstadt's strong self-identification as a Jew made the topic intensely personal for her.

The book is structured as a series of letters between a Jewish student of hers named Abigail and a colleague named Joe at the law school at Emory University, where Lipstadt is on the faculty.

They are fictional characters who are composites of many people she's had discussions with over the past few years.

The letter format gives the book an urgency that might otherwise be lacking in a scholarly work, although at times, it can seem a little contrived.

Lipstadt is best known for being sued for libel by David Irving after calling him a Holocaust denier. She won the case, which was later made into the 2016 film "Denial" starring Rachel Weisz.

At the outset Lipstadt expresses her hope that both sides of the political divide will be discomfited by her analysis and conclusions, and they probably will.

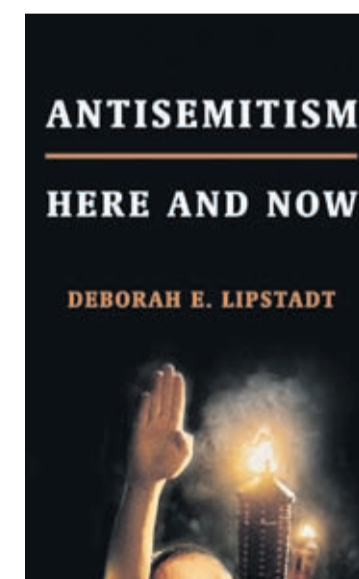
For instance, she classifies both Donald Trump and Jeremy Corbyn, the head of Britain's Labour Party, as "antisemitic enablers" — Trump for failing to call out

the white supremacists, racists and anti-Semites who support him and Corbyn for tolerating the anti-Semitism of his political allies.

"While Trump is probably not an antisemite," she says, "enabling antisemitism is itself an antisemitic act that causes as much damage as something that comes from an ideological antisemite."

Lipstadt wrapped up the manuscript in August 2018 after noting that pace of anti-Jewish incidents and rhetoric had made it almost impossible to finish. Sadly, she was right.

Just weeks after penning her note to readers, a man gunned down 11 people in a Pittsburgh synagogue in the deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history. The



This cover image released by Schocken Books shows "Antisemitism: Here and Now," by Deborah E. Lipstadt.

Associated Press

suspect had a history of posting anti-Semitic vitriol online. □

Dwayne Johnson goes indie with 'Fighting With My Family'

By RYAN PEARSON

Associated Press

PARK CITY, Utah (AP) — Believe it or not, Hollywood executives told Dwayne Johnson "no thanks" when he pitched his latest movie. It was an unusual rejection for the industry's reigning box office champion, whose "Jumanji" reboot in 2017 made nearly \$1 billion worldwide. And so before he trades insults with Jason Statham in "Hobbs & Shaw" or straps in for the Disney's "Jungle Cruise," the artist forever known as The Rock put on his independent film producer hat and went outside the traditional studio system to make "Fighting With My Family."

His Seven Bucks Productions found financing through WWE Studios and Britain's Film4 to make the scrappy, relatively low-budget comedy inspired by WWE wrestler Paige's life story. Johnson makes a cameo appearance, as he did in Paige's real-life rise from a small English town to the top of pro wrestling.

"Every studio passed on this, regardless of if I was at-



Dwayne Johnson, left, and Dany Garcia, center, co-founders and co-CEOs of Seven Bucks Productions, and her brother Hiram Garcia, the company's president of production, pose together during the 2019 Sundance Film Festival, Monday, Jan. 28, 2019, in Park City, Utah.

Associated Press

tached," Johnson said in an interview. "They were like, 'No, no. The subject matter.' And, and also too, you know, generally the tapestry of pro wrestling as it's been shown in film hasn't always been done in the greatest of ways certainly that would make us proud, coming from that world.

(Darren) Aronofsky did it beautifully in 'The Wrestler,' but before that and since then, it hasn't really been shown. So there was a lot of challenges with this."

Johnson, 46, says that while he knew Paige through WWE, he didn't know her back-story — including a brother and parents who shared her passion for pro wrestling — until a serendipitous night filming "Fast & Furious 6" in London. Unable to sleep, he was flipping channels and came across a documentary about the performer (real name: Saraya-Jade Bevis). "I immediately identified with this crazy wrestling family who was very loving, loved the world of pro wrestling," he said. "And I come from a crazy, at-times-dysfunctional wrestling family — my dad, my grandmother and grandfather, uncles, cousins, you name it."

Johnson's "Tooth Fairy" co-star Stephen Merchant was hired to write and direct. Florence Pugh signed on to play Paige, with Nick Frost and Lena Headey as her parents. The underdog story opens wide in U.S. theatres on Friday. It got a warm reception at its Sundance Film Festival premiere, which Johnson attended alongside his producing partners Dany and Hiram Garcia.

Sitting alongside each

other at a Park City, Utah condo, the three finished each other's sentences and were quick to laugh together. Dany Garcia, a former bodybuilder and investment banker, was married to Johnson from 1997 to 2007 and they have a teenage daughter. When talking about Johnson, she sometimes reaches out to touch his forearm or thigh. They have other life partners now, but have flourished as business partners, founding Seven Bucks Productions together in 2012. Hiram Garcia, Dany's younger brother, has long consulted with Johnson on his career. He was named the company's president of film production in 2017.

They offered a preview of four of Seven Bucks' many upcoming film projects, all starring Johnson:

HOBBS & SHAW

Johnson won't appear in the next "Fast and Furious" movie, set for 2020, but hopes this spin-off with Jason Statham and a villain played by Idris Elba becomes its own franchise. They tried to also bring "Aquaman" star Jason Momoa on-board, but it didn't work out. "Maybe on the next one," Johnson says, while promising "belly laughs" alongside the explosions and shootouts: "I've never gotten more joy than making Jason Sta-

tham laugh in every scene, to the point where he can't actually say words." It's set for release in August.

JUNGLE CRUISE

Based on the Disney theme park ride, Johnson says the Jaume Collet Serra-directed adventure film, also set for 2020, is "African Queen" meets "Romancing the Stone." Hiram Garcia says Emily Blunt plays "a young Indiana Jones type female ahead of her time ... looking for an unbelievable artifact (who) has to go to the river and needs the best captain there is. ... Hijinks ensue and romance ensues."

THE KING

"Sacred, epic, thoughtful," is how Dany Garcia describes the planned biopic of Hawaiian King Kamehameha. Johnson told an interviewer at age 29 that it was his "dream role" in Hollywood. "I didn't have life experience to play it then. So the time is right. ... It's a special one," he said. Robert Zemeckis will direct and "Braveheart" screenwriter Randall Wallace has been researching the story in Hawaii for the past two years, Johnson said. "It's the telling of King Kamehameha, from his birth to how he came to unite the islands and unify Hawaii as one ... and the introduction of the white man to the Hawaiian islands, and what it meant to the people," Hiram Garcia says. Production is expected to begin next year.

JOHN HENRY AND THE STATESMEN

Hiram Garcia pitched Johnson on the idea of folklore heroes from various cultures joining together to "right the wrongs and save the planet." Johnson's wrestler father Rocky Johnson used to sing the folk song about the "steel-driving man" to him before bed, on the rare occasion he was home. "It was very personal to me because there was oftentimes quite a disconnect when me and my dad were growing up, because he was always on the road. So that would always be a very special time for us," Johnson said. The movie is set for release on Netflix. □

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US Latinas rally around 'Roma' actress Yalitza Aparicio

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

— Yalitza Aparicio, the Oscar-nominated, first-time actress in "Roma," is finding strong support among Mexican-American women who identify with her indigenous roots despite backlash she is receiving in Mexico.

Some Mexican-American women say they are glad Aparicio's high-profile role is challenging typical images of light-skinned Latinas in Spanish-language films and TV shows, and they are expressing pride that she's the first indigenous woman to be nominated for best actress at the Oscars.

U.S. Latina Aparicio fans are holding Oscar watch parties, commenting to each other online with excitement and sharing on social media every move Aparicio makes.



In this Feb. 4, 2019 file photo, Yalitza Aparicio, nominated for an Oscar for best actress for her role in "Roma," poses for a portrait at the 91st Academy Awards Nominees Luncheon in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

"She's brown girl magic," said Jennie Luna, a Chicana/o Studies professor at California State Uni-

versity Channel Islands in Camarillo, California. "My students can't stop talking about her."

The praise north of the U.S.-Mexico border among fans of Mexican descent comes as Aparicio, who is from the

Mexican state of Oaxaca, faces racist attacks online in her homeland and scorn from some Mexican actors. More recently, Mexican actor Sergio Goyri was caught on video criticizing Aparicio's nomination and using a racial slur to describe her. He later apologized.

After she appeared on the cover of Vogue México last year, Aparicio was hit with a tirade of online racist comments that criticize her physical appearance.

"I am proud to be an Oaxacan indigenous woman and it saddens me that there are people who do not know the correct meaning of words," Aparicio, who is of Mixtec descent, said in a statement earlier this month.

In "Roma," Aparicio plays Cleo, a domestic worker for a Mexico City middle-class family in the turbulent early 1970s. □

The big Oscar win by 'Green Book' leaves many frustrated

By MIKE CIDONI LENNOX

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP)

— The decision to hand the best film Oscar to "Green Book" continued to be debated Monday, long after the last Champagne glass had finally been emptied. Rarely in Oscar history, after all, has a winning movie prompted a noted guest in the audience, who had just won his first competitive Oscar, to try to storm out of the night's big coronation. Spike Lee's vocal disapproval of the segregation-era road-trip drama was but an early indication that "Green Book" will remain a polarizing choice, especially for its depiction of race relations and its sentimentalized approach. It emerged victorious on the night against Lee's own confrontational "BlacKkKlansman" and the Afro-futuristic blockbuster "Black Panther."

"Many of us in the black community would like to see greater recognition for movies about the black experience and not just for movies that make the black



Viggo Mortensen, from left, Linda Cardellini, Dimiter Marinov and Mahershala Ali accept the award for best picture for "Green Book" at the Oscars on Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

experience comfortable for white audiences," wrote television commentator and author Keith Boykin. Meanwhile, Justin Chang

a critic at the Los Angeles Times laced into "Green Book," calling the film "an embarrassment" and "the film industry's unquestioning

embrace of it is another." He declared it "insultingly glib and hucksterish, a self-satisfied crock masquerading as an olive branch."

A whole thread on Twitter emerged to gently mock the film, including the lines "'Green Book' thinks the Civil War was mainly about economics" and "'Green Book' thinks you're so articulate." "Green Book" tells the story of a white man who becomes friends with the black musician he drives through the 1960s South for a concert tour. The name is derived from a publication that helped African-Americans find establishments that would serve them in the segregated South. Seated in the audience on Oscar night, Lee waved his hands in disgust and appeared to try to walk out of the Dolby Theatre when "Green Book" was announced as the winner of the top trophy Sunday. He made his way back to his seat and later backstage compared the best film selection to a loss by his beloved New York Knicks basketball team. He later joked, "The ref made the wrong call." Members of the team behind "Green Book" sought to dampen any lingering tensions. □

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